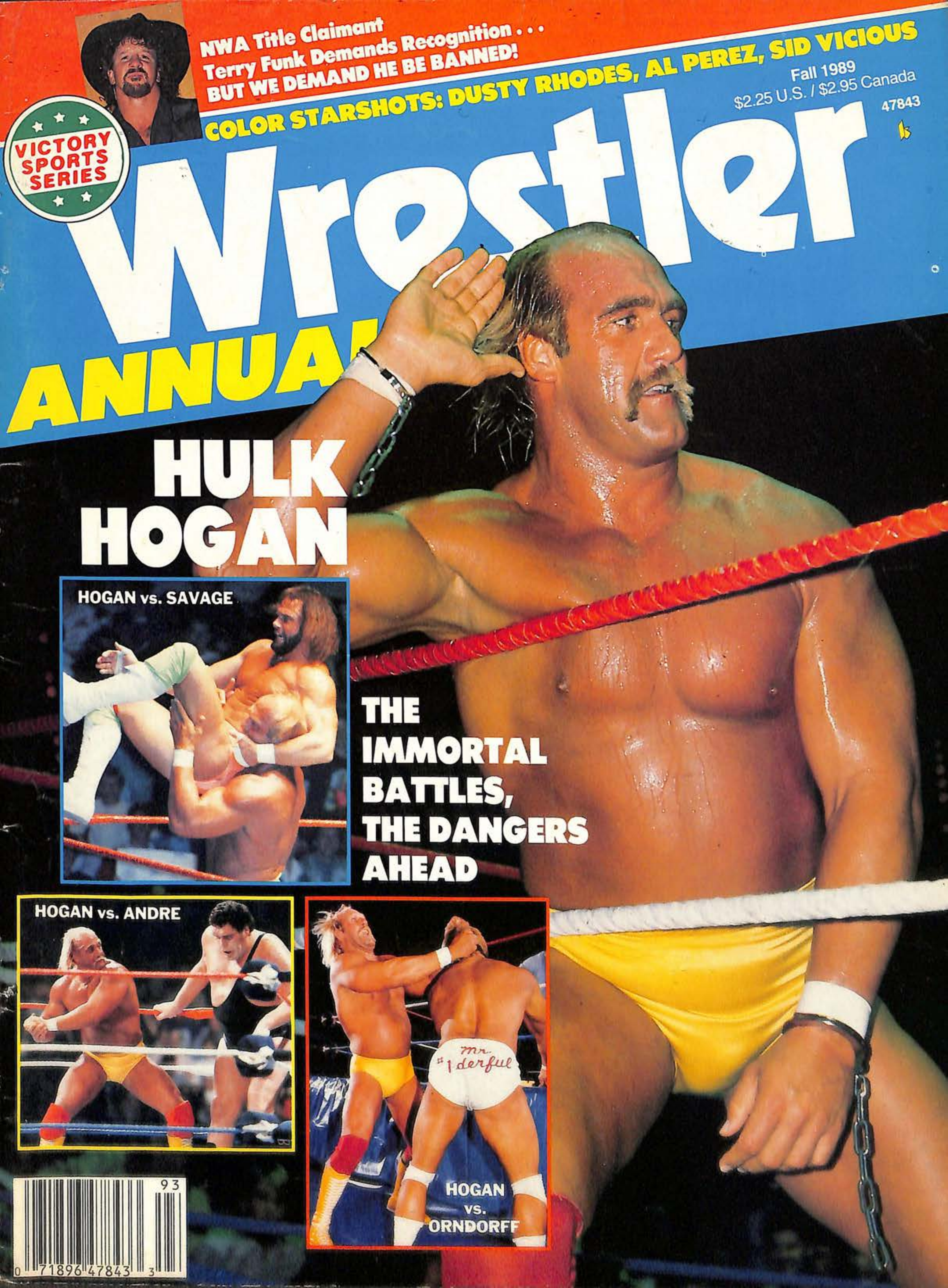

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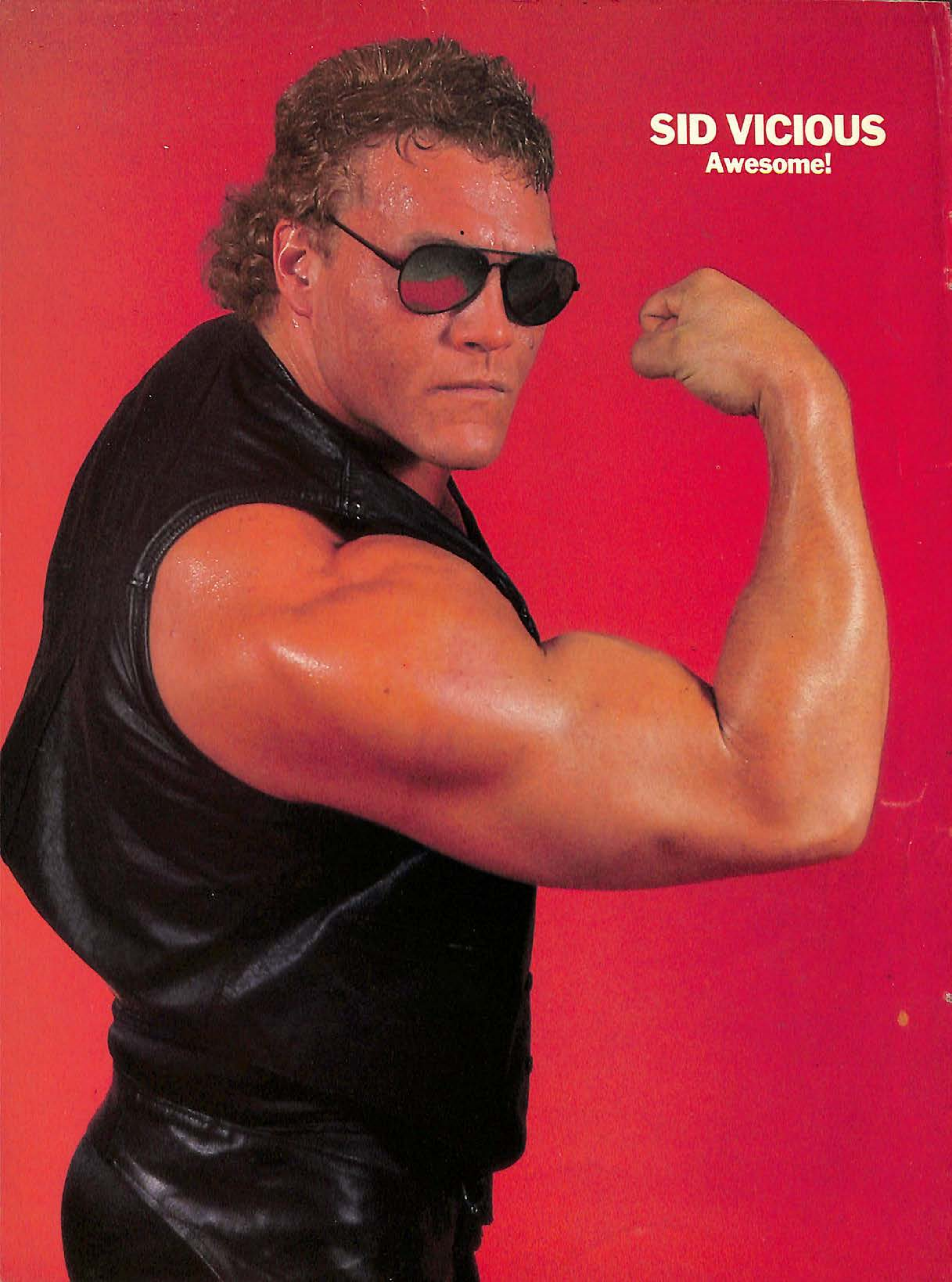
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Wrestler ANNUAL

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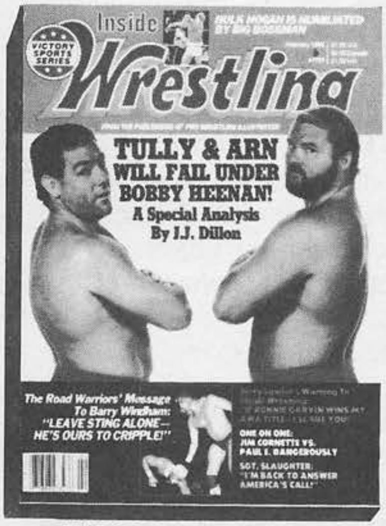

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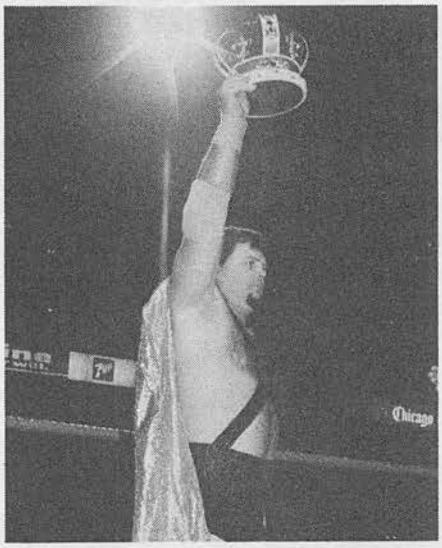
INTRODUCTION

THIS IS A bittersweet time for us here at *Wrestler Annual.* You know, the old "good news/bad news." You see, this is our last issue. That's the bad news. The good news is that there's a brand-new magazine coming out to take its place at the end of August. It's called *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Presents—Wrestling Classics,* and it will continue in the *Wrestler Annual* tradition of gathering and re-running the finest stories ever published in our large family of wrestling magazines. There's one more piece of good news: *Wrestling Classics* will be published nine times per year!

On to the stories. Years before he won the AWA World title, Jerry "The King" Lawler was a top contender for the *NWA* World belt. When a match with NWA champ Terry Funk didn't go as he figured it would, Lawler flew into a rage, well-documented in **Meet The New Jerry Lawler** (*The Wrestler,* January 1977). Opponents soon would learn what was so new about this version of "The King."



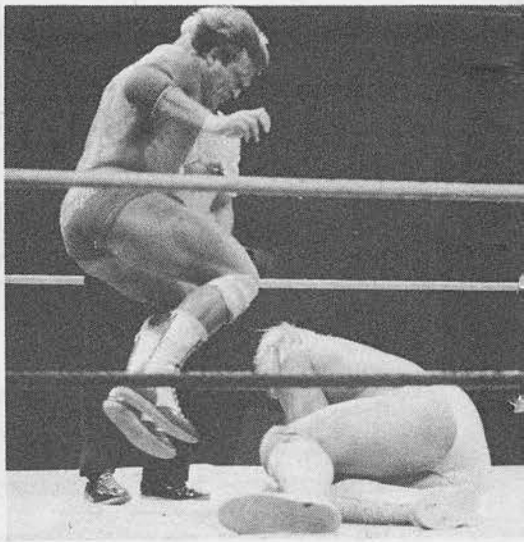
Jerry "The King" Lawler generally respects the rules, but he isn't afraid to bend or even break them on occasion.

NWA Title Claimant Terry Funk Demands Recognition . . . But We Demand He Be Banned! (*Inside Wrestling,* March 1983) That headline could be taken from today's news, but it was written more than six years ago, when Funk declared himself the NWA World champion. Ric Flair was actually the champ, but that didn't matter to the wily Texan, who traveled to New York to defend his outrageous claim. Clearly, Flair's problems with Funk go back a long way.

In 1982, Terry Funk traveled to New York to stake his claim as NWA World champion. At the time, the real titleholder was Ric Flair.

AWA World champion Larry Zbyszko should like battle royals. After all, he won his title in such a match. But if you called **Larry Zbyszko—Battle Royal Coward . . . And Winner!** (*Inside Wrestling,* September 1980), you'd be accurate, because Zbyszko once won a battle royal by spending most of his time on the ring apron! That craftiness (or cowardliness) is one reason why he's champion today.

Dino Bravo a sex symbol? Strange but true. At the beginning of Bravo's career, women swooned at the sight of the handsome Canadian. **Dino Bravo's "Sexy" Problem** (*Inside Wrestling,* December 1975), though, was that people weren't taking him seriously enough as a wrestler. He's taken seriously now, but as a rulebreaker, Bravo is far removed from his sex symbol days.



"Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff kneedrops Hulk Hogan. Over the past few years, Orndorff and Hogan have been enemies, friends, then enemies again.

This issue contains a host of Hulk Hogan stories documenting some of the most grueling bouts and toughest opponents of his career.

In 1985, the "Hulkster" was in the midst of a brutal title defense. In **Worn-Out Hogan Loses To Muraco: Give The Hulkster A Rest!** (*Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* September 1985), we speculated on how the WWF World champion's hectic schedule leading up to the first WrestleMania could cost him the belt.

Hogan vs. Orndorff: Wrestling's Hottest Feud (*Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* February 1987) was hot news in the WWF for months. The feud began when "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff, who was a friend and tag team partner of Hogan's, double-crossed Hogan in the ring. It wasn't their first feud, however. Some of the "Hulkster's" first title defenses in 1984 were against the arrogant Orndorff.

(Continued on page 8)

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May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

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July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

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December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

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April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors. Backlund, Santana, Rich.

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September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

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November 1988/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.

January 1989/Stories include: Kevin Von, Rougeaus, Horsemen, Hogan.

February 1989/Stories include: Warriors, Ultimate-Hogan, Bigelow-Gordy.

March 1989/Stories include: Jarrett, Flair, Jake-Andre, Bigelow-Windham.

April 1989/Stories include: Bulldogs, Warriors, Andre, Hogan-Savage.

May 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Valentine.

June 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Martel, Ultimate-Savage, Luger, Flair.

July 1989/Stories include: Warrior, Hogan-Bravo, Flair-Steamboat, Rhodes.

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 6)

Who could ever forget the epic confrontation in 1987 pitting Hogan against Andre the Giant? **Giant Killer! Hogan Topples Andre At WrestleMania III** (*Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* August 1987) is our blow-by-blow account of that unforgettable match. It was a riveting drama played out in front of 93,000 fans at the Pontiac Silverdome and thousands more watching on television worldwide. When it was over, Hulkamania ran wild!

When Randy Savage's fans decided that **For The Love Of Elizabeth . . . Randy Savage Must Beat Hulk Hogan!** (*The Wrestler,* April 1986), they probably never envisioned that Savage would become a fan favorite, team with Hogan, and win the World title from Ted DiBiase. Now Randy Savage again finds himself needing to beat Hogan, but it's not for the love of Elizabeth, it's for the approval of his latest manager, "Sensational" Sherri Martel.

Now that we've chronicled some of the most difficult periods of Hogan's past, let's look to what he can expect in the near future. In **Hulk Hogan: Bracing For The Dangers Ahead**, those dangers are the opponents who seek to take the championship from "Hulkster." Those rugged foes include Big Bossman, Dino Bravo, and Zeus, Hogan's opponent in *No Holds Barred.* And who knows? Hulk may even wind up squaring off against The Ultimate Warrior and the newly arrived Dusty Rhodes.

Where there's trouble in the wrestling world, you'll find **Mil Mascaras—Globetrotting Troubleshooter** (*Inside Wrestling,* April 1980). On this occasion, the high-flying Mexican sensation was in Japan to stem a wave of terror began by Abdullah the Butcher.

Mil Mascaras, one of wrestling's original high-flyers, isn't afraid of trouble. In fact, he'll go wherever he's needed to fight evil rulebreakers.

Most recently, Mascaras wrestled several cards in World Class. Mil's actions have won him friends (and enemies) around the globe.

When Bobby Heenan managed AWA World champ Nick Bockwinkel, he used whatever means possible—legal or not—to get Bockwinkel a favorable contract. However, **Martel vs. Heenan** was **The One Match Bobby Heenan Could Not Weasel Out Of** (*The Wrestler,* July 1983). "The Brain" had surprisingly been outsmarted by Rick Martel, who was being frustrated in his attempts to get title shots.

One of the most touching stories we've ever done involved Bobby Jaggers and his father. In ***The Wrestler* Reunites The Jaggers Family** (*Wrestler Annual,* Winter 1983), Jaggers' dad told of the years he spent searching for his son. Senior Editor Bill Apter has said that being able to help the Jaggers family was one of the most satisfying moments of his career.

As always, we have three great color starshots: This issue we present Dusty Rhodes, Sid Vicious, and Al Perez. In "Your Letters," check the latest fan opinion, and see how your favorite grapplers are ranked in "Ratings" and "Ratings Analysis."

Don't forget—we'll be back in at the end of August with our brand-new *PWI Presents—Wrestling Classics.* □

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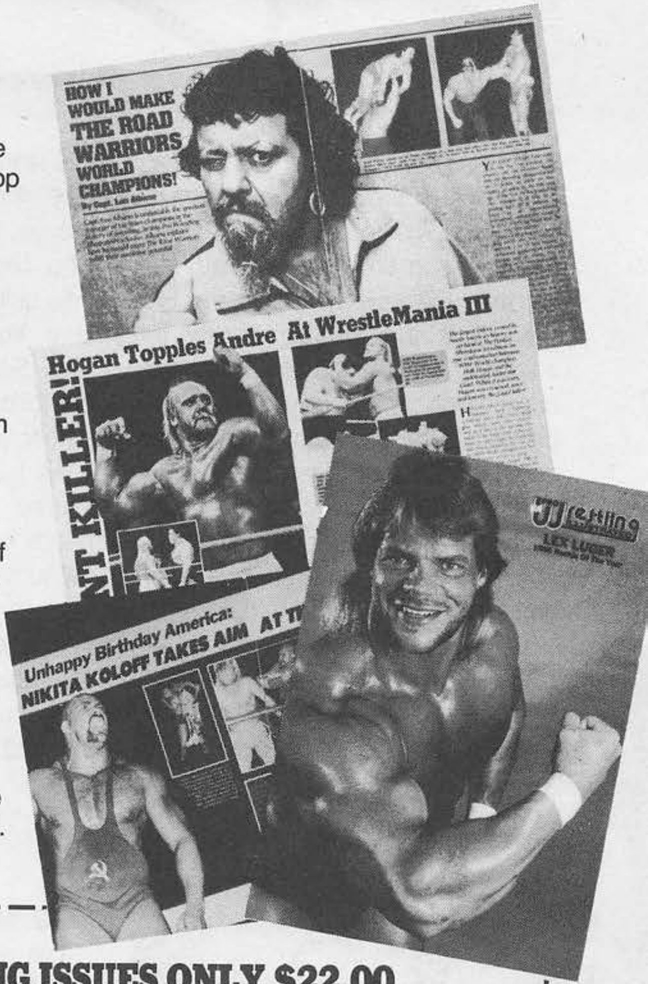

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A CLASSIC

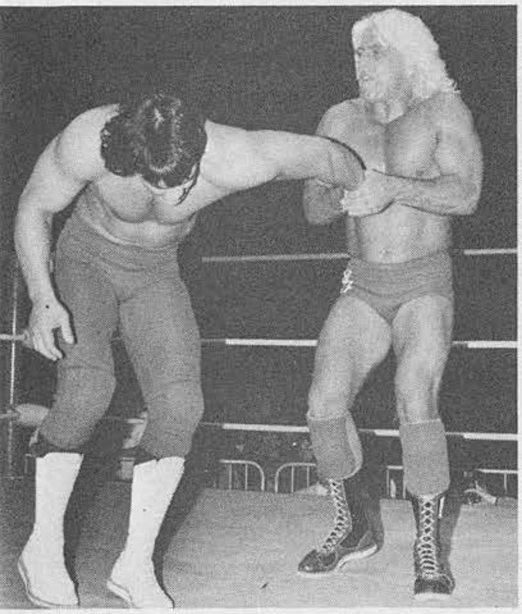
What a journey through history the Summer 1989 issue was!

For a long time, I wondered what caused the rivalry between Rick Steamboat and Ric Flair, but the five articles in that issue went a long way in showing me exactly what happened. I don't think there's ever been another feud quite like this one in the history of the sport.

Right now, however, there are rumors circulating that "The Dragon" and "Nature Boy" may soon form a tag team. This is an intriguing idea. Like the articles in the magazine proved, there's never been two men who complimented each other's talents quite as well as Flair and Steamboat. Imagine what they could do to The Samoan Swat Team or The Freebirds if they decided to get together again!

As I write this, I'm waiting for the injuries that Flair suffered at the hands of Terry Funk at Wrestle War '89 to heal, but I'm sure he'll soon be back and better than ever. Maybe Flair should recruit Steamboat in his war against Funk. Between the two of them, they'd be more than enough to send that cowboy back to Texas forever!

MARY MANCINI
Leola, SC



Ric Flair twists Rick Steamboat's arm. Mary Mancini thinks Flair should recruit "The Dragon" to help him battle Terry Funk.

TOO MUCH BLOOD

I've seen a lot of bad injuries in my day, but I've never seen anything like the photos of Bobby Heenan that were featured in the Summer 1989 issue ("My God, Bobby! What Happened To Your Face?"). I've seen some faces that have been ravaged by cuts before, but Heenan looked like he was bleeding to death.

Staring at the horrifying photos that accompanied that article made me glad that I'm a wrestling fan today and not in 1970, when that match was held. If Heenan had been cut that badly today, I'm sure that the athletic commission would simply stop the match. That kind of brutality just wouldn't be condoned anymore.

Bobby Heenan was horribly bloodied by Bruiser in a 1970 encounter. Reader John Nelson is glad some federations have rules concerning cuts that would prevent this kind of punishment.

A lot of fans I know don't like the rules certain wrestling federations have enacted concerning cuts, but I think that avoiding serious injuries can only be good for the sport. Why should anyone be forced to suffer the way Heenan did?

Even "The Weasel" didn't deserve that kind of treatment.

JOHN NELSON
Ballston Spa, NY

(Continued on page 12)

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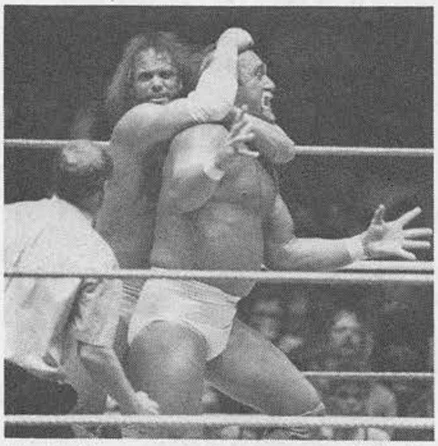
YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 10)



Randy Savage puts the sleeper on Hulk Hogan. Hogan will be a great WWF World champion for a long time to come, writes Ann La Bonne.

MAD ABOUT MANIA

The article in the Summer 1989 issue concerning Hulk Hogan's WWF future raised several interesting questions ("At The WrestleMania V Crossroads: Where Does Hulk Hogan Go From Here?"). But it's clear to his fans that Hogan is going only to one very important place—straight to the top.

If you ask me, Hogan was brilliant in his starring role as Rip in *No Holds Barred,* but he's been even more impressive in defending his WWF World title. Randy Savage hasn't even come close to beating the "Hulkster" in several rematches for the title, while Big Bossman has proven to be nothing but a big joke. Zeus? Don't make me laugh!

Why don't more people give Hogan credit for being the most unbeatable wrestler in the sport today? It's clear that nobody has ever pinned Hogan cleanly in more than five years, and I'd be willing to bet that it'll be a long, long time before anybody ever does it again.

Hulkamania rules—today and forever!

ANN LA BONNE
Bremerton, WA

I'm really angry about the way your article on Hulk Hogan made it look like the rest of Hogan's title reign is going to be a piece of cake. Hogan is going to lose that WWF World title a lot quicker than a lot of people think. Take a look at all the competition Hogan has got to meet in the future.

And take a good look at Zeus, for heaven's sake! This has got to be the most terrifying man ever seen in the WWF. At 6'11" and 343 pounds, he dwarfs Hogan by comparison. Hulk will be lucky to escape this one with his hide intact, let alone his World title. And how about Dino Bravo, Ted DiBiase, and Big Bossman? These men have been waiting for their title shots, too.

What really bugs me the most about Hogan is how infrequently he defends his belt. NWA champ Ric Flair has been known to defend his belt almost every single night, while AWA titleholder Larry Zbyszko has been busy taking on the best in the AWA and PWF areas. Hogan? He's been too busy promoting his crappy new movie to care about taking on wrestling's best, night after night.

Keep up the partying, Hogan. You'll be an ex-champion before you know it.

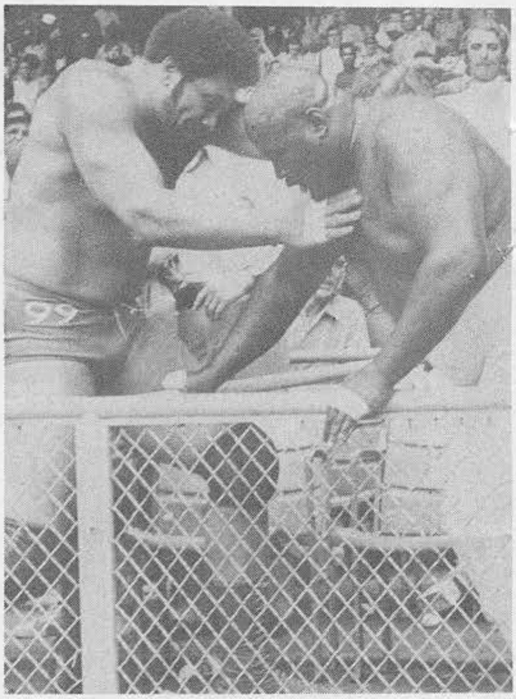
JEREMY BUCKWAR
Williston, NC

OLD-TIME THRILLS

As a veteran wrestling fan, I was extremely pleased to see the story concerning the first "Super Bowl Of Wrestling," reprinted in the Summer 1989 issue.

As a lifelong Ohio resident, I was at Municipal Stadium for that incredible day of wrestling action back in 1972. Back in those days, there was no such thing as pay-per-view coverage of major events—there wasn't even cable TV! There weren't even that many big arena shows, so this card was really something special. I drove almost 300 miles to be at the ballpark that day, and it was an event that will live with me for the rest of my life.

Of all the matches on that card, two stand out in my mind. When Abdullah the Butcher took on Ernie Ladd, it was like combining gasoline and kerosene. Those two monsters not only fought both inside and outside the ring, but they even climbed into the stands and continued their war there. I ought to know—those two animals ran me right out of my seat!

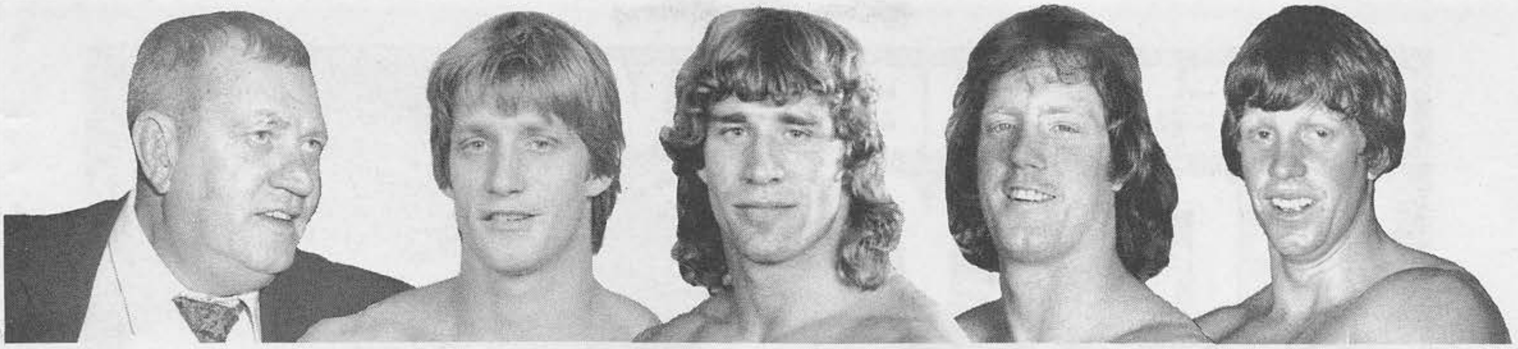


Ernie Ladd and Abdullah the Butcher take their fight out into the stands in 1972 during the "Super Bowl of Wrestling" in Cleveland.

The other match I'll never forget pitted then-North American champion Johnny Powers against Johnny Valentine. Today's fans would have been thrilled to see Powers, then the master of the figure-four leglock, taking on Valentine, who looked and wrestled similar to his famous son, Greg. It was a great as any of the championship matches that take place today.

Now, whenever anyone holds a wrestling card in a major league ballpark, I alway think back to Municipal Stadium and the "Super Bowl." I don't think anything else, even in this era, will ever be able to top it.

KURT WINTER
Bakersville, OH □



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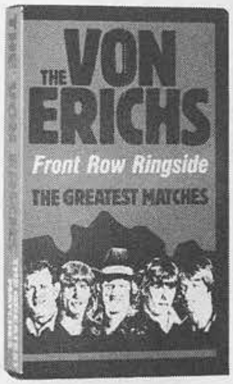

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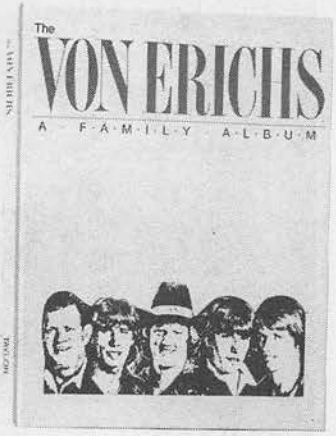

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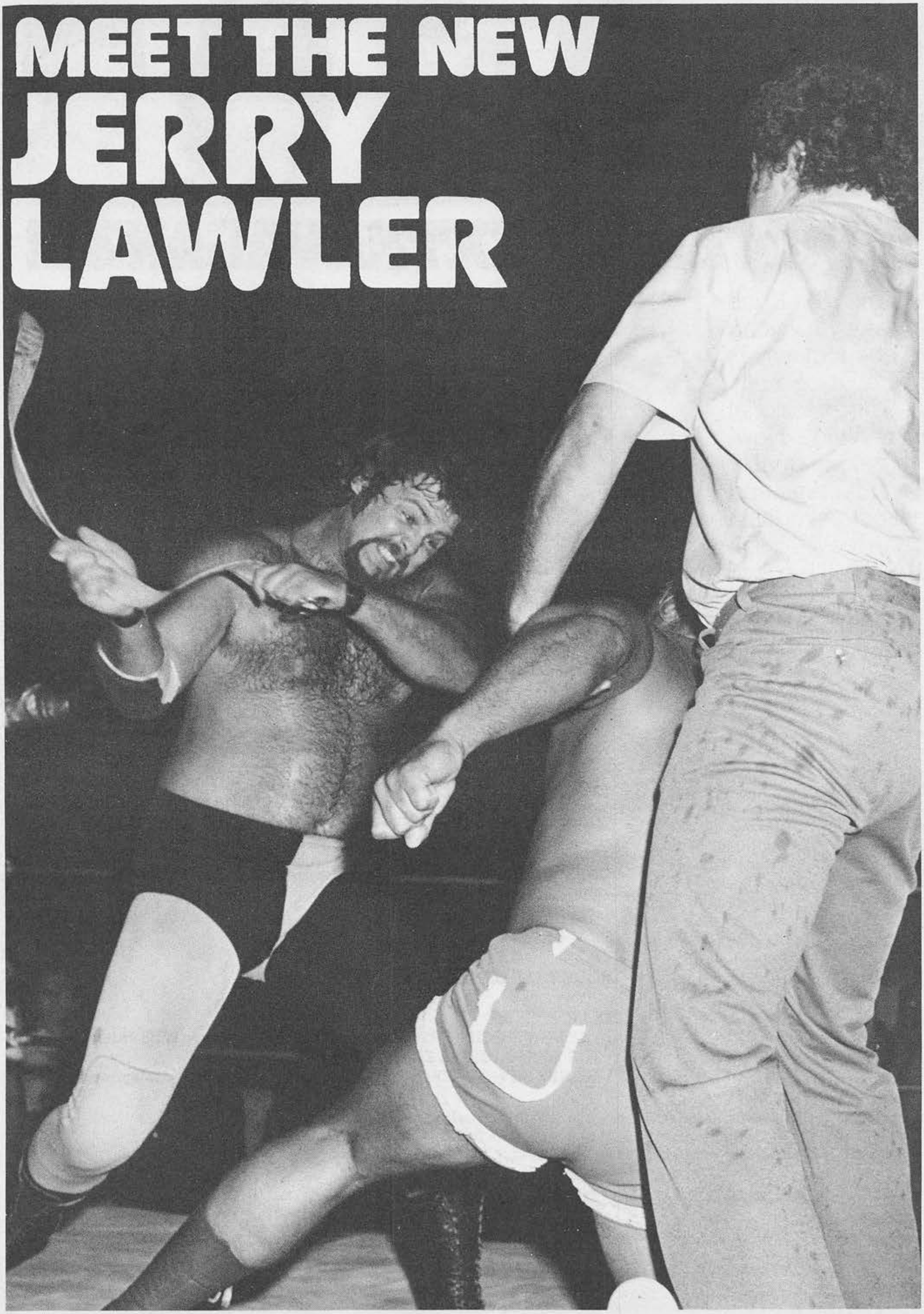
MEET THE NEW JERRY LAWLER

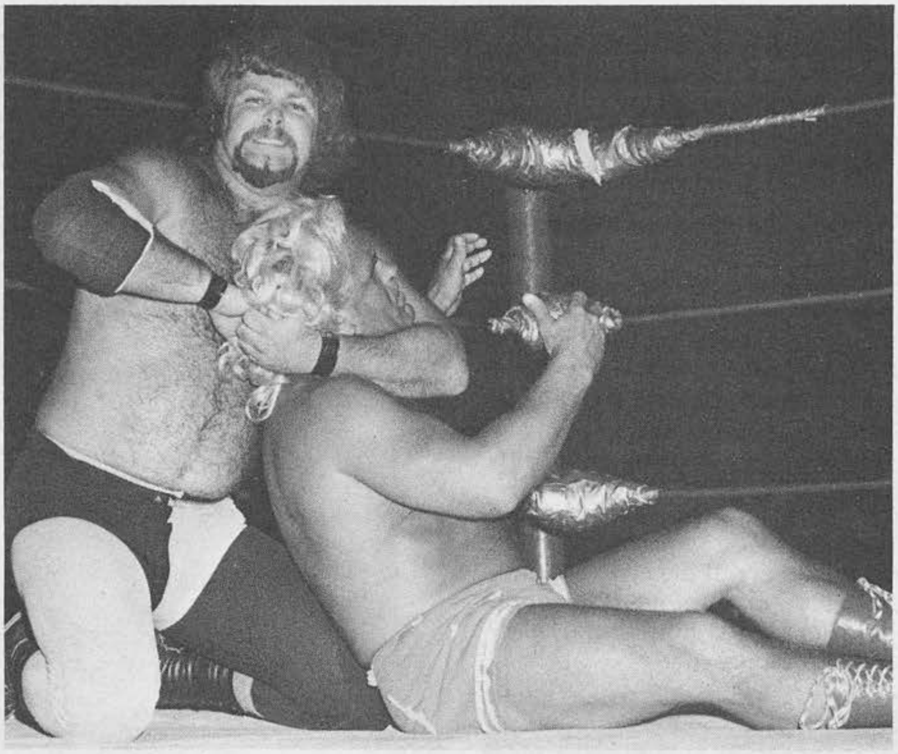


THE PHONE DIDN'T ring. There were no congratulatory telegrams. The place reserved for the NWA championship belt stood empty. The champagne remained on ice, unopened. There was no celebration for there was no victory.

Jerry Lawler was alone in his house. The silence was deafening. The few friends who had come to offer consolations were long since gone. Lawler sat in his overstuffed chair, staring at the wall, yet seeing nothing.

He must have stared at that wall for more than half an hour. Then his hand moved out to a crystal ashtray on the table beside him. Still sitting, he threw the ashtray against his wall. It felt good, so he went searching for other things to throw.

First, his bottle of shaving lotion spattered against the wall, spraying glass and cologne all over. This was followed by the salt and pepper shakers, the sound of which breaking is harsher than ashtrays. Then, with a motion much akin to a baseball pitcher's fastball delivery, Lawler sent three eggs hurling to the wall. Eggshell swimming in albumen dripped down into the carpet. Lawler couldn't be happier.



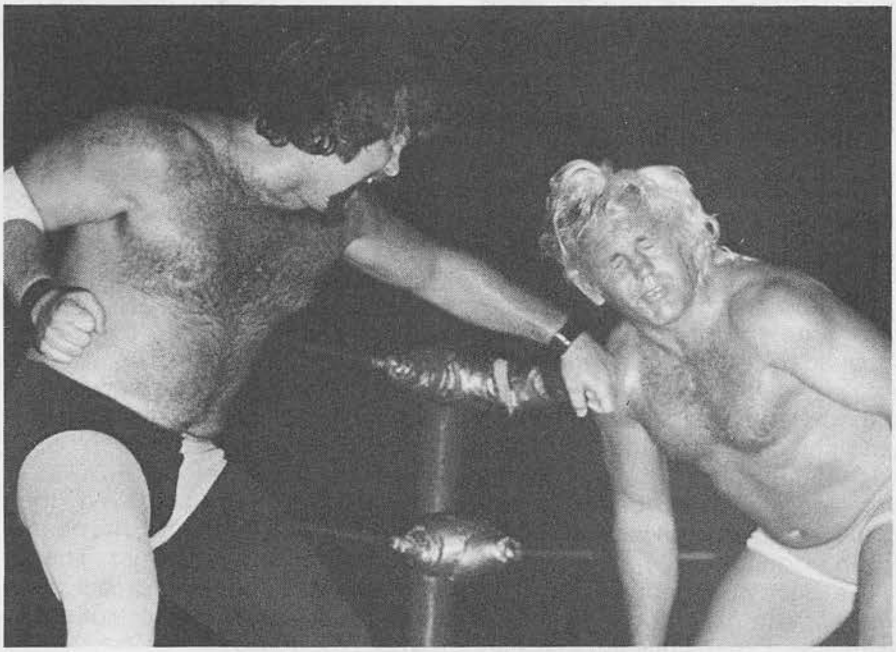
Lawler applies one of the few legal holds anyone has seen him use since his match against NWA king Terry Funk. It's a chinlock, and Gorgeous George Jr. is finding out how painful that hold can be. In a few moments though, Jerry will turn it into a chokehold!

The NWA title appears to be beyond Jerry Lawler's grasp, at least for the present. And people will have to pay for Jerry's frustrated ambitions, pay with their careers and blood!

Then, for the ultimate explosion, Lawler grabbed the champagne bottle. At the other side of the room, crouching behind a bunker of couches, Lawler hurled the bottle and then plastered himself behind the couch. The sound was like a bomb going off and the result was similar. Glass flew like bullets, embedding slivers into every piece of furniture. Paintings on the wall were ruined. The force of the explosion destroyed three lamps and an endtable.

For the first time that night, Jerry Lawler was satisfied.

Lawler was enraged because Terry Funk was still the NWA champion. Jerry had finally gotten a title shot, had his chance to take it

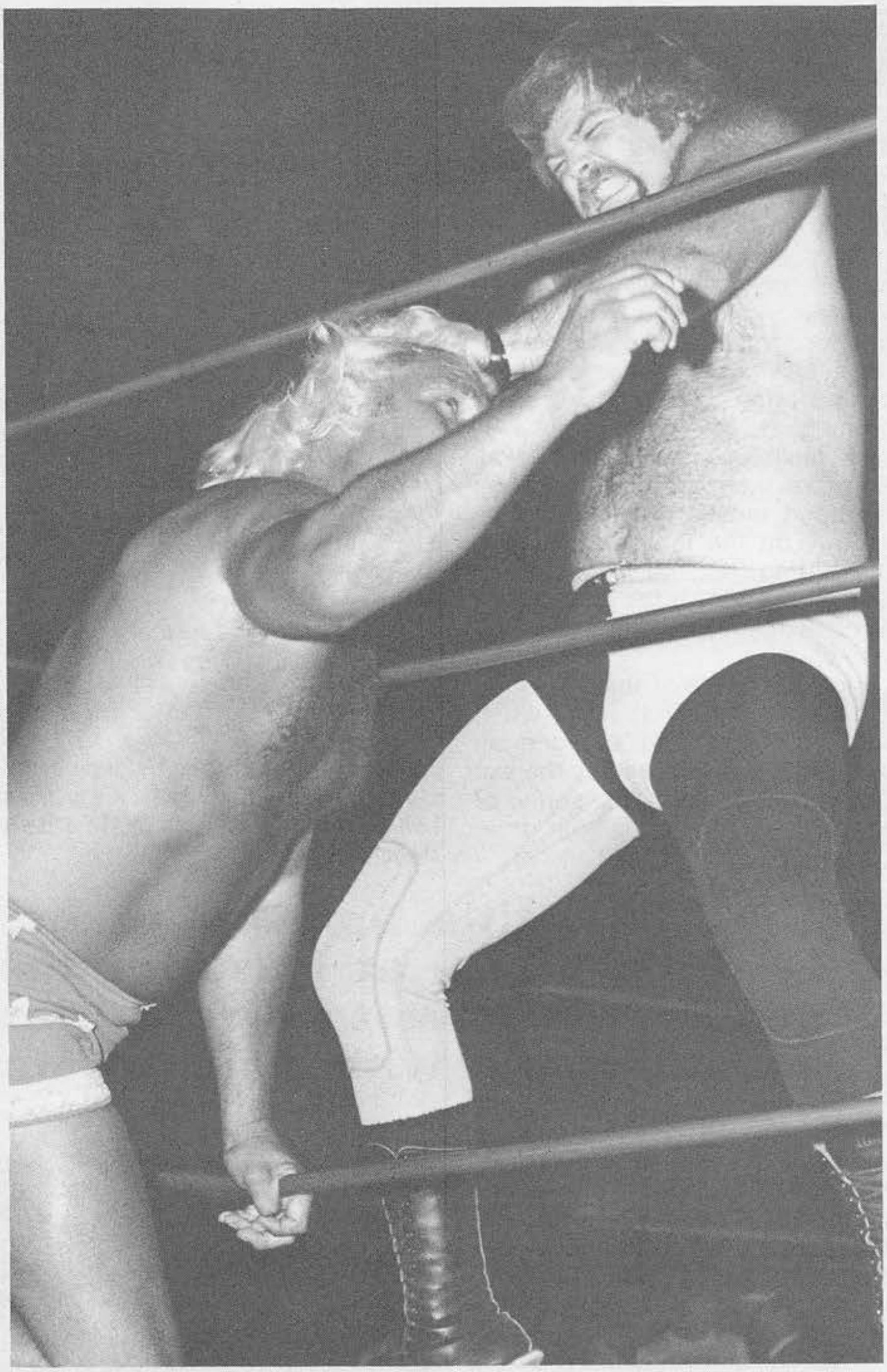


Jerry's left fist has just smashed George in the jaw and the gorgeous one is about to fall to the canvas. George, known as a rulebreaker, was cheered in his contest against Jerry. The vicious Lawler is now hated with more of a passion than ever by wrestlers and fans.

all. And the end result was failure. Funk wrestled better than he ever had. No man could have beaten him on this night. Lawler had come close, proving his own greatness. But who cares what's proven in a losing struggle?

Lawler is not the kind of guy who broods, eating himself up with disappointment. When he's hurt, the world must be hurt in return. A violent man, Jerry knows only one way to express his rage. He must beat it out upon the bodies of others.

Never a scientific wrestler, Lawler knew what he would do. From that night on, whenever he wrestled, blood would flow and men would cry. If they had thought he was rough before, the world would learn just how brutal Jerry Lawler could be.



A brainbuster stops George dead in his tracks (above left). Shortly afterwards, Jerry tossed him out of the ring. When George tried to return to the ring, Jerry refused to let him in (above). Moments later, Lawler kicked George onto the cement floor and repeatedly stomped on him.

"Run for your life, world!" Jerry screamed into the night. "I'm looking for blood! Everybody's blood!"

It would be no idle boast. Those who knew Lawler best were shocked to see him start training 12 hours a day every day. And the maneuvers he was practicing could send chills up the spine. Each one was capable of crippling. None were legal. It's no wonder Lawler found himself having difficulty finding opponents.

That's why Gorgeous George Jr. was made to order for Jerry. It had been over a year since the grappler had wrestled in the United States. He was totally ignorant of Lawler's threats. All he wanted was to meet a top NWA wrestler and get his career rolling again. Lawler was the man George needed to defeat. Little did he know Jerry wasn't out for victory but for blood.

When George discovered the turmoil he had leapt into, his name was already on a contract. There was nothing he could do but prepare for the most ruthless match of his life.

"I'm not worried," the blonde grappler claimed three days before the battle, "because I know I'm better than Lawler. I don't care what that clown says. I can't imagine losing to him. There's no move he can do that I can't counter. If Lawler was looking for a sucker, he found the wrong fella. I'm winning this match. Prepare the victory wreath for the return of Gorgeous George Jr.!"

Lawler heard his opponent's boasts and laughed. Jerry was aching for a slaughter. It's just that much uglier when the butchered are unsuspecting.

(Continued on page 56)

NWA Title Claimant Terry Funk Demands Recognition . . .

BUT WE DEMAND HE BE BANNED!

Terry Funk came to New York City recently to publicize his claim to the NWA title. He intends to defend the replica championship belt in wrestling rings around the country. Most people think Funk is doing great harm to the credibility of the legitimate NWA belt. Funk feels he's a legitimate champion who deserves to be recognized

THE REGISTERED LETTER from Terry Funk arrived in the midst of a busy day at the offices of *Inside Wrestling*. But when the contents of the letter became known, all work came to a halt. Nobody could believe what Funk had done, and everyone wanted the opportunity to read the letter for themselves:

Dear Sirs:

This is to inform the promoters and the sports media throughout the world that I have repeatedly been denied a chance at the NWA heavyweight championship. I feel that I have been personally discriminated against due to my superior wrestling ability.

Moguls, millionaires, and conglomerate corporations of the profession have avoided my talents. I feel that Ric Flair is inferior to me in every way. Therefore, as of October 26, 1982, I am laying claim to the title.

I am now taking bookings as the NWA heavyweight champion (claimant). If you wish dates, pictures, or tapes on such a talented person as myself, please contact me by phone or letter at my home or office.

Sincerely,
Terry Funk
NWA Champion (Claimant)

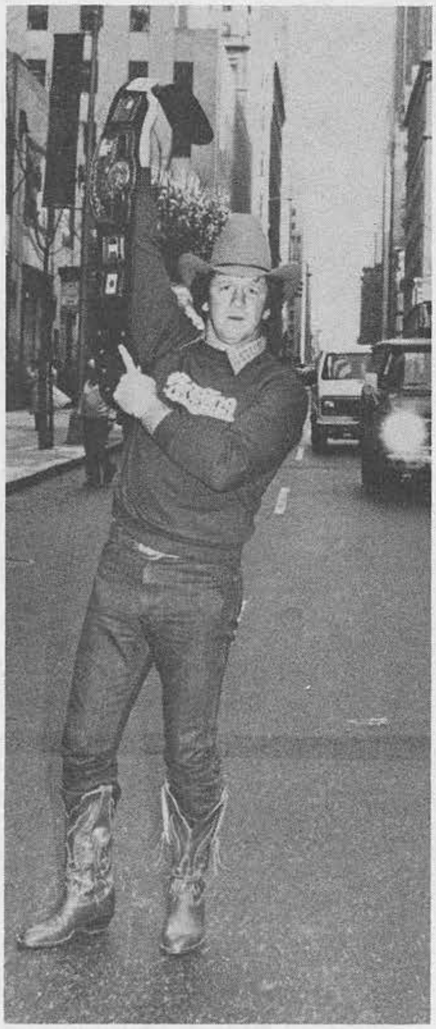
"Can Funk be serious?" asked Associate Editor Rich Countis. "Does he know what he's doing?"

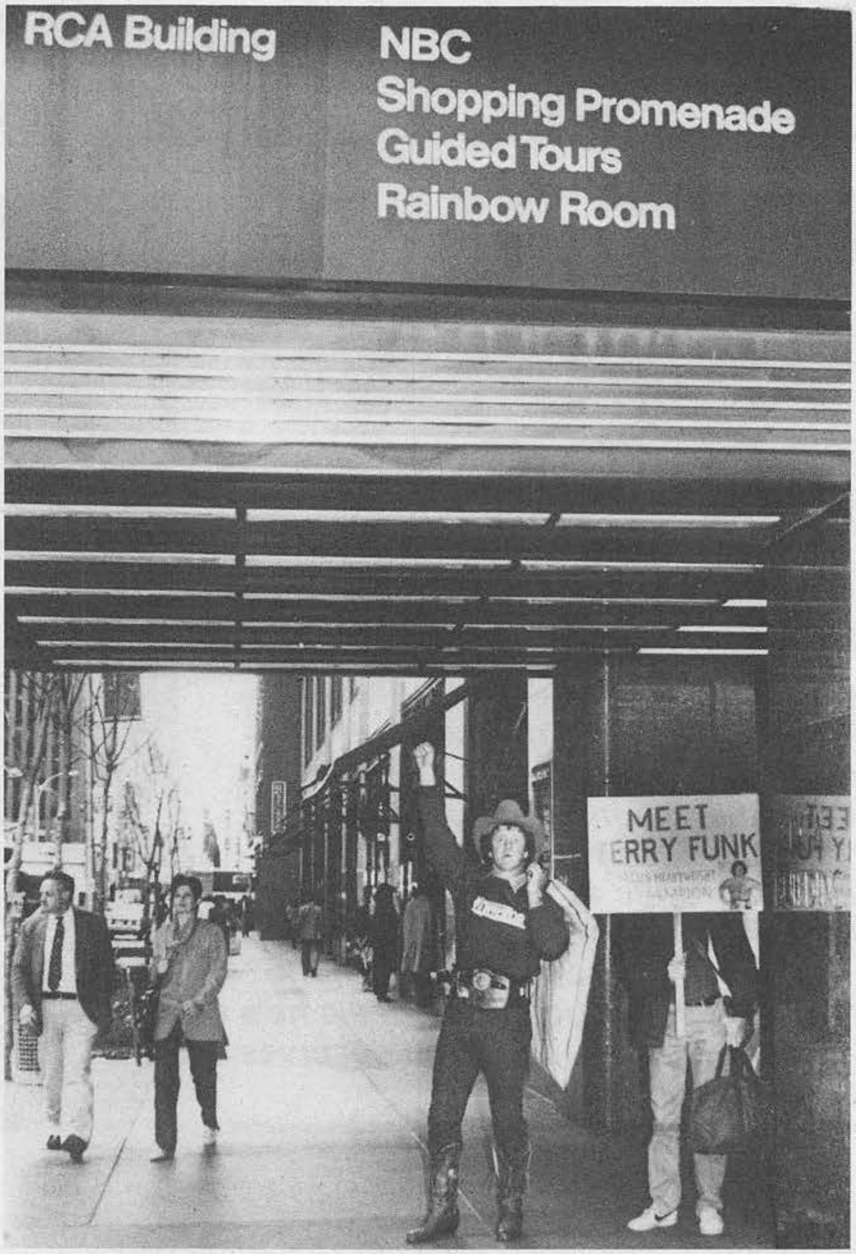
"I'm afraid he knows *exactly* what he's doing," Associate Editor Craig Peters responded. "And that's what worries me."

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

Terry Funk waves for the camera as he strolls through New York City streets following his press conference (above). Funk is wearing a replica of the NWA championship belt around his waist. Feeling as powerful as, and perhaps even more important than, a champion, Funk poses boldly in front of the Rockefeller Center ice rink (below).

Funk proudly displays his replica NWA belt everywhere he goes in New York City, even in the middle of the street (below). Funk is satisfied with the way his press conference, held at the RCA Building in Rockefeller Center, informed the media of his championship status (right).





Then Senior Editor Bill Apter entered the conversation. "I just got off the phone with Terry Funk," said Apter, "and we've got to move fast. He's in New York today and he'll be holding a press conference at Rockefeller Center late this afternoon."

When *Inside Wrestling's* reporters and photographers arrived at Rockefeller Center in the heart of New York City, Funk was out on the streets surrounded by a large crowd.

"What you doing in New York, Funk, you gonna wrestle Backlund?" asked one man in the crowd.

"Hell, man, I'll wrestle Backlund anytime he wants," said Funk. "Anytime, anywhere. I'm ready, because I'm the champ, and the champion is always ready to defend his belt."

Around the waist of Terry Funk was the replica of the NWA belt that he had made for himself. Funk was proud of his belt, and he posed several times for photographers as if in fact it were the one and only championship belt.

Funk's press conference was short and to the point. Essentially, he restated the points he made in his letter to the media, but he also noted that several managers and wrestlers had contacted him regarding his claim to the belt.

"I've spoken to certain people over the telephone," Funk said, "and I'm well aware that in certain circles of the wrestling world, people are worried about me. They think I'm a madman. But I also want to point out that I have received several offers of big money to defend my belt in various parts of the world. I'm not at liberty to say who I will be defending my belt against, because the ink hasn't been placed on the contracts yet. But as soon as it is, I'll let everyone know."

What about Ric Flair, the man who is recognized worldwide as the legitimate NWA champion?

"Flair has been dodging me for as long as he's had the title," said Funk, "and it's all because he knows that as soon as he steps in

the ring with me, he's gonna walk out of that ring a former champion. I challenge him here and now, and I hope he reads about this press conference somewhere: Flair, if you're there, let's wrestle, boy. I'm ready, I'm not afraid of you. Can you look yourself straight in the mirror at night and honesty say that you're not afraid of me?"

Dory Funk Jr. was contacted by phone in order to get his reaction to his brother's actions. "I always knew Terry was crazy," said Dory, "but I never thought he was this crazy. He's gone off his rocker! But I do agree that he deserves the opportunity to wrestle Flair."

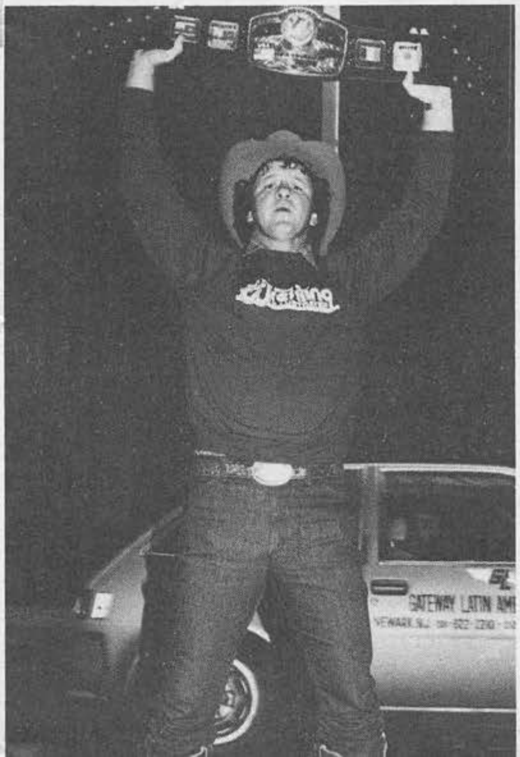
NWA President Bob Geigel, in New York for business reasons, was present at Funk's press conference. "I'm not sure yet how the NWA will deal with Funk officially," he said, "but I do know that some sort of action will be taken soon."

Ric Flair was unavailable for comment.

Following the press conference, wrestling referee Dick Kroll, who remained silent while reporters questioned Funk, expressed his opinions to the wrestler.

"I think what you're doing is reprehensible," Kroll told Funk.

A bystander argues with Funk, stating he has no right to claim a title he did not earn in the ring (above). Funk poses with several admirers who stopped him on the street to meet him and shake his hand (below).

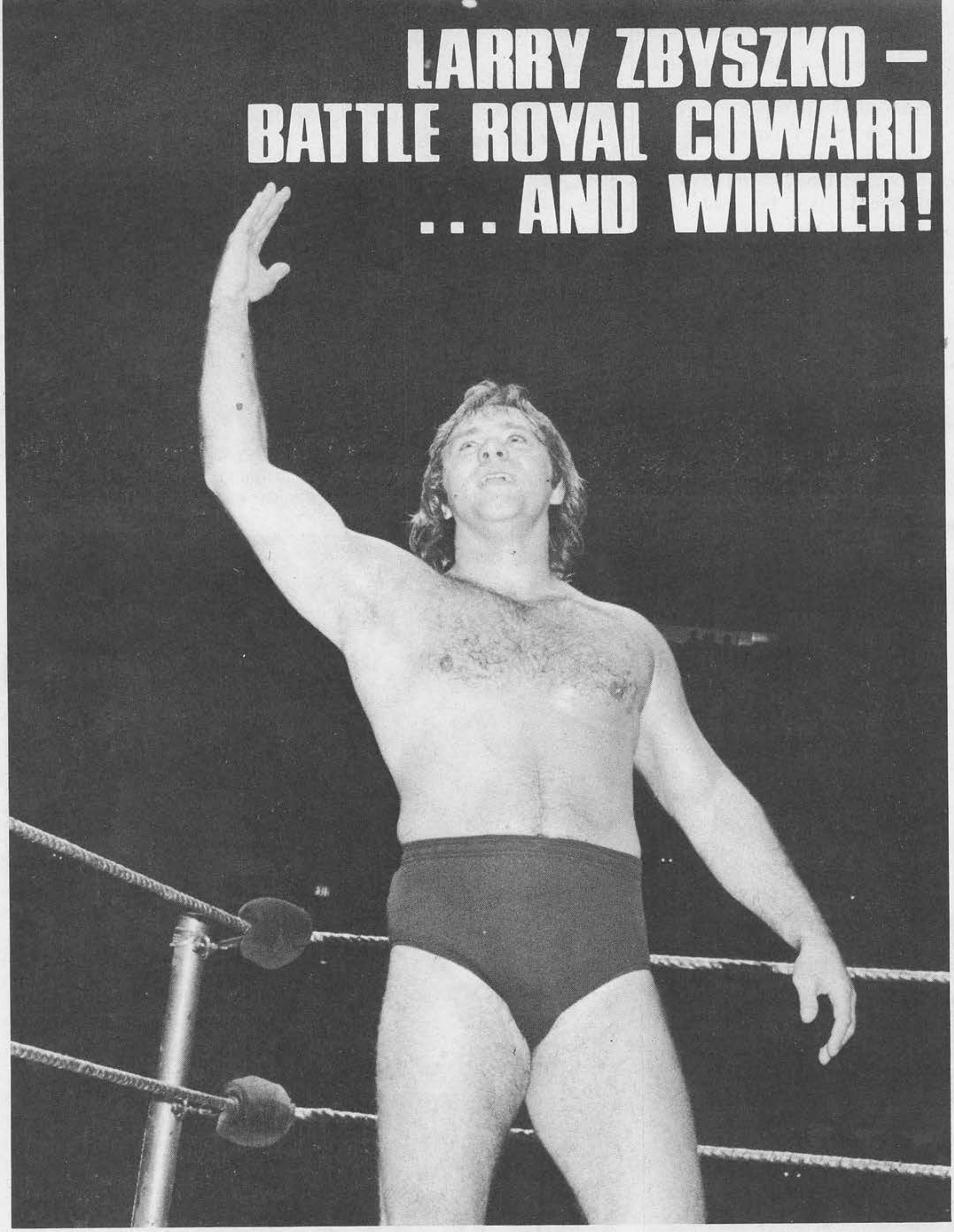


Funk holds his replica NWA belt high for all to see (left). Wrestling referee Dick Kroll cannot take Funk's title claim seriously, and tells him so as the Texan boards a cab for the airport (above).

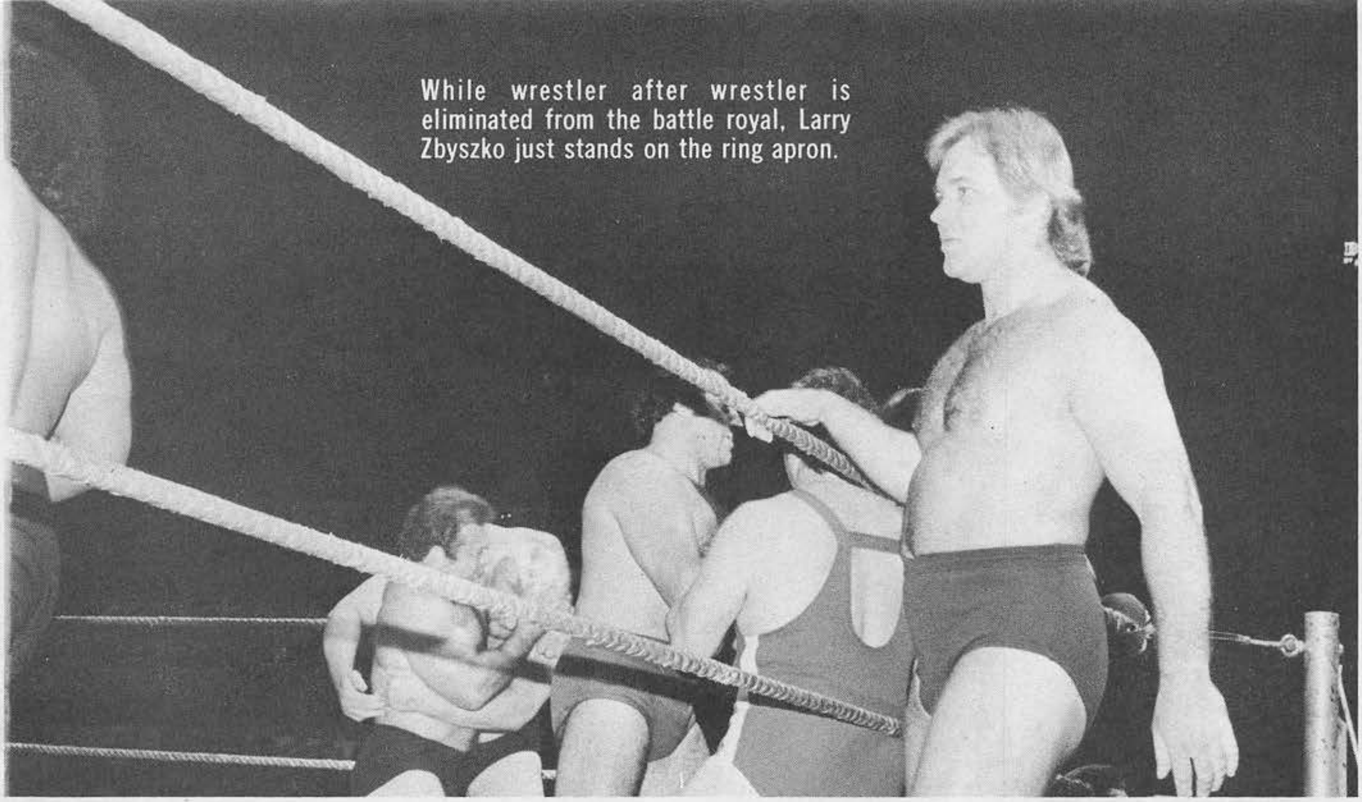
"If everyone thought the way you did, every man in wrestling would be walking around with an NWA belt or a WWF belt or an AWA belt around his waist. It would make every championship worthless.

Kroll expresses the exact sentiments of *Inside Wrestling*. Funk is tarnishing his own credibility, which is his choice. But at the same time he is tarnishing the respect of wrestling's oldest title, the NWA heavyweight championship. As a one-time holder of that title, he should be aware of the consequences of his charade. If he is not, then let the ruling bodies of wrestling deal with him as they see fit. □

LARRY ZBYSZKO – BATTLE ROYAL COWARD ... AND WINNER!



Entering a Battle Royal entails substantial risks, considering the quality of opponents and danger of a cheap shot. Larry Zbyszko weighed all the dangers and concluded the gamble worthwhile. By risking his neck, Zbyszko moved into a title shot against WWF champion Bob Backlund



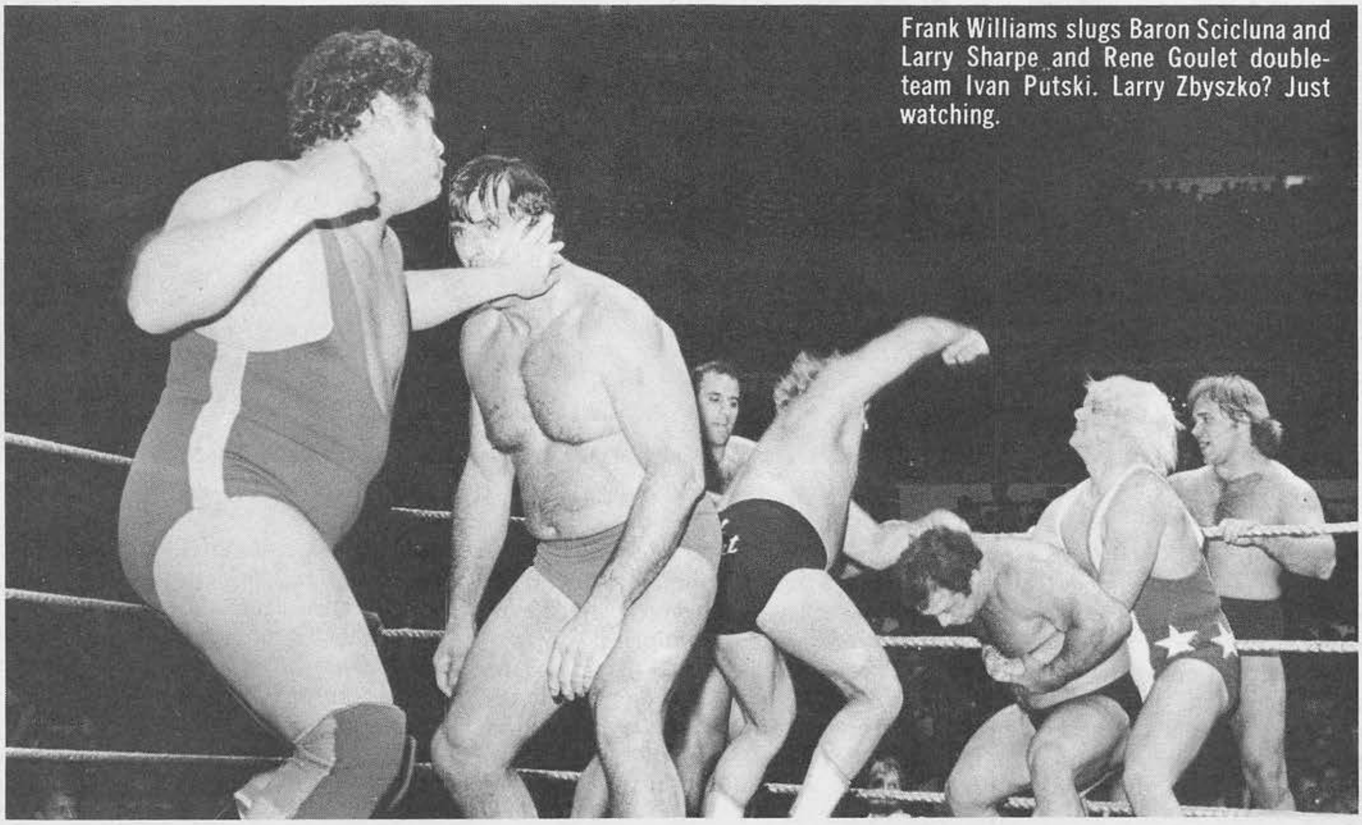
While wrestler after wrestler is eliminated from the battle royal, Larry Zbyszko just stands on the ring apron.

ONE HUGE ARM grabbed a head and squeezed, fingertips poking at the victim's eyes so the referee wouldn't see. An open palm closed as it slammed a forehead, sending the stunned wrestler backward into the ropes. A knee into the groin doubled up a gasping man.

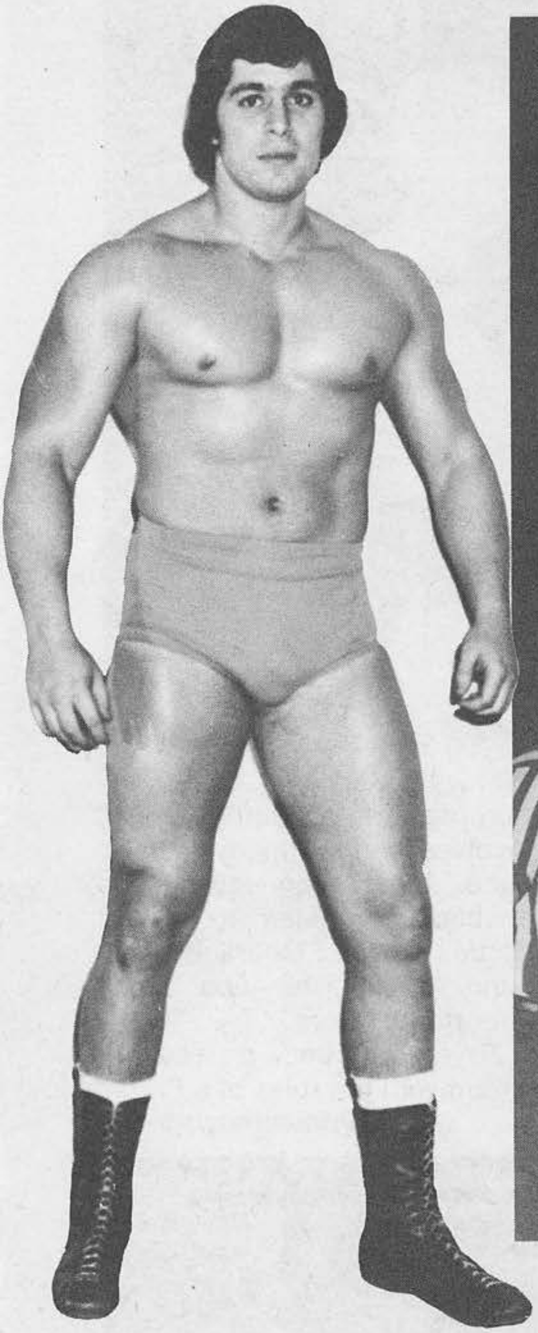
Larry Zbyszko saw all three confrontations. In fact, Zbyszko had a perfect viewpoint for all the action in the 16-man Battle Royal at Madison Square Garden. Though introduced as a participant, Zbyszko spent most of the night on the ring apron, occasionally slithering through the ropes, pounding someone or tossing a body over the top rope, then immediately climbing back to the safety of the ring apron. The very purpose of a Battle Royal involved battling many men at once. More than raw talent enables a wrestler to win a Battle Royal. Courage and cunning are the two most important factors.

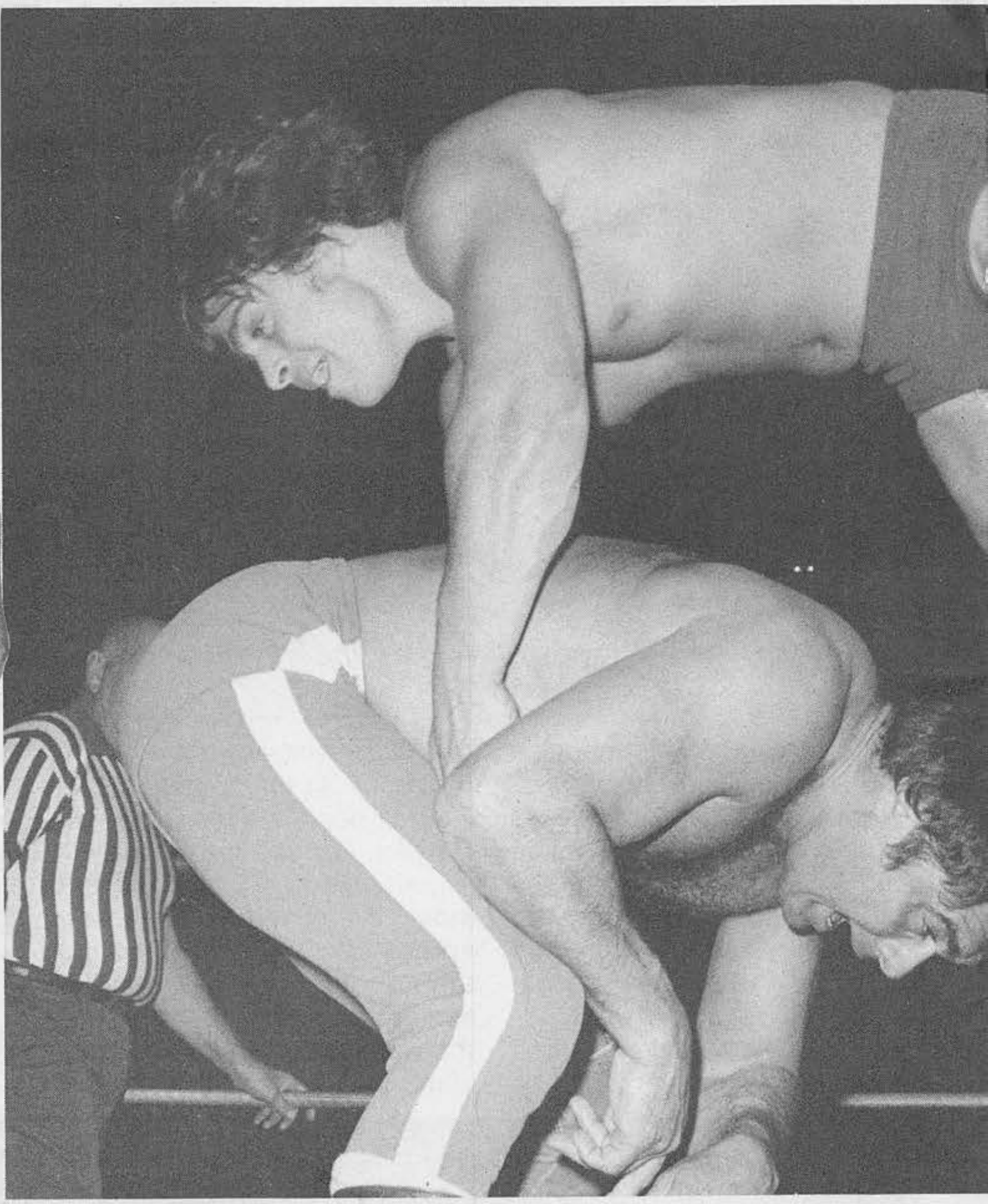
Zbyszko found a way to circumvent the rules of a Battle

(Continued on page 52)



Frank Williams slugs Baron Scicluna and Larry Sharpe and Rene Goulet double-team Ivan Putski. Larry Zbyszko? Just watching.





DINO BRAVO'S "SEXY" PR

MOST MEN GLORY in the adulation of women. However, for Dino Bravo, it's becoming a major problem!

"Of course I enjoy the attention of beautiful women," Dino admits with a smile, "but I find it's commanding too much of the fans' attention. I find people say I'm handsome more than they say I'm a good wrestler. I spend no more than 10 minutes a day on my appearance. I've devoted my life to becoming a good grappler."

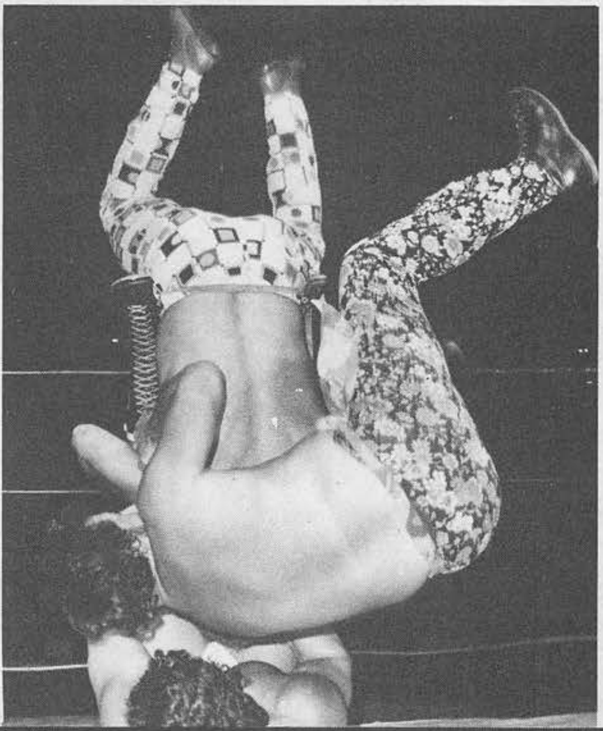
For a serious athlete like Dino, the constant comment on his good looks can be more than annoying. It has even begun to eat into his confidence, making him question his growing popularity. A situation like this could make it very rough for any young man suddenly thrust into the spotlight.

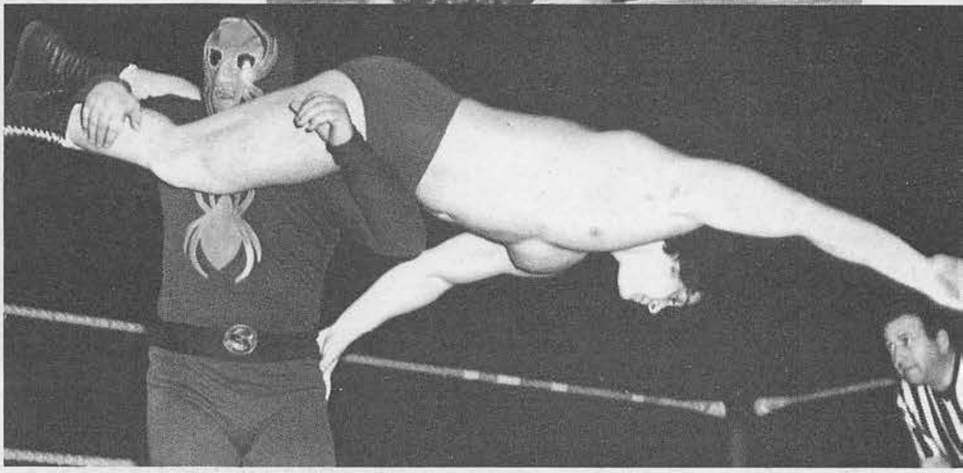
"Even being named rookie of the year," Dino says, "may have been more of my effect on young women than my ability to conquer opponents. Maybe it's the squeals of girls rather than the sounds of my opponents

Most men would love to trade places with Dino Bravo. But do most men realize Bravo's desperate predicament?

Dino proves his skill against wily veterans like John Tolos (above). Yet, his good looks tend to overshadow his ability.

Dino does the near impossible by executing a startling double monkey flip; it has both Love Brothers on the canvas (right). As if further proof is needed of Dino's great ability, he has Scorpion caught in a flying leg scissors during a tough match (below). Yet many fans still refer to Dino as "that really handsome guy!"





OBLEM

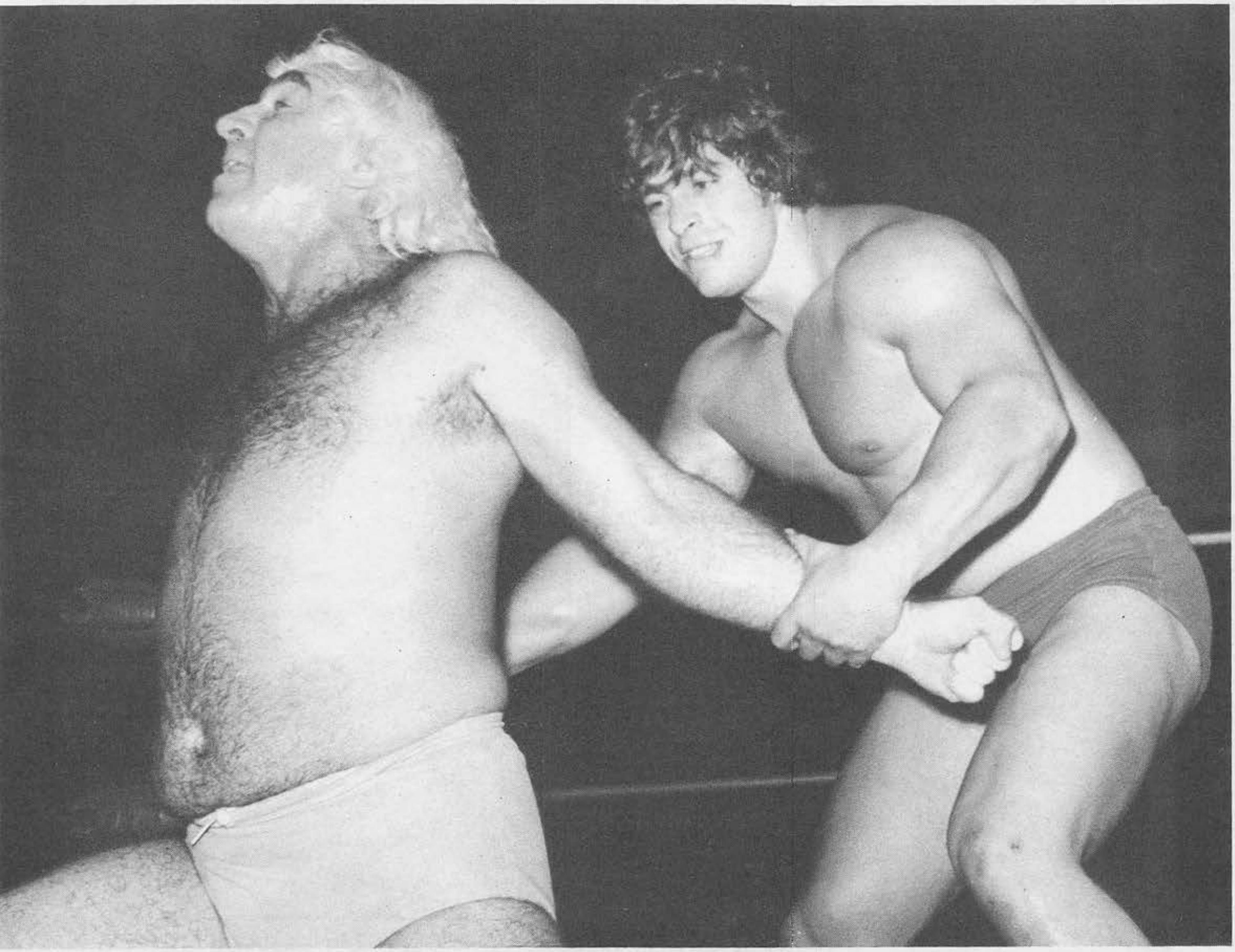
submitting which got me the honor. I know I can wrestle. Does anyone else?"

This may seem like an absurd question. However, for anyone beginning a difficult career, every small point must be given special attention. Particulars are what separates professional athletes from the rest of the world. One's gifts must be scrupulously examined and evaluated. There is a constant questioning. Doubts are part of that process.

Watching Dino enter an arena gives one an idea as to why the young grappler is having those doubts. Women become excited at the sight of him. When he's in troule, they scream in horror. When he is dominating the action, there are shouts of joy. The women aren't reacting to whether he executes well or if he's being overwhelmed by his opponents. All they hope is that Dino doesn't get hurt. That is not the kind of wrestling fan a young grappler needs most.

A beginning in any sport needs feedback solely on his accomplishments. His personality can only get in the way of the important criticism every young athlete needs. When one enjoys the kind of charisma possessed by Dino, it can eventually hurt his career.

"So far," his friend Tex McKenzie believes, "Dino has managed to keep his head about him. He's a good young wrestler and knows what he has to do.)



Jerry Brown of the Hollywood Blonds learns the hard way why Dino Bravo won I.W.A. "Rookie of the Year" honors. Brown is not likely to mistake Dino as a handsome guy without ability!

If any youngster can hold up under all that hero worship, it's Dino.

"But, by golly, I don't know how long he can take it. It seems almost inhuman that all that attention has already turned his head. If I was Dino's age, I sure as heck would be enjoying all the worship instead of training.

"Also, he's not too sure what his best maneuvers are yet. He's still learning, still finding himself professionally. He needs the fans as a way of determining what he's doing right or wrong. As far as Dino's fans are concerned, that boy can do no wrong! That's nice, but it isn't any good!"

Tex doesn't foresee Dino changing his style in the near future. He feels Bravo has enough confidence—and good sense—not to make any drastic changes. However, there is a danger of small changes be adopted, changes which would hurt Dino in the long run.

"It would be natural," Tex explains, "for Dino to do something new just to get some sense of how the fans view him as an athlete rather than a sex symbol. Now, moves which are used just to see something different rather than developed are always dangerous. And a man in Dino's position is apt to do something like that."

While most men would regard being too sexy as the perfect problem, for a young professional grappler, it could mean the end of a career. That's a danger which is plaguing Dino Bravo.

"No wrestler can make a career without the fans' support," Dino says, "I realize this as well as anybody. And I wouldn't want to be unattractive to women. I was blessed with the appearance which makes people like me.

"However, I also realize what harm it can do me. I get worried at times, now probably more than I should. I'm not sure what I'm doing and where I'm going wrong. I want to be admired for my athletic ability and not my good looks.

"Also, fans don't take sex symbols seriously. There really is the prejudice that a good looking guy is just another pretty face. I'm a wrestler first and foremost; I want to be taken seriously as such."

Dino's opponents are taking him seriously. Unfortunately for the young grappler, that may not be enough. □

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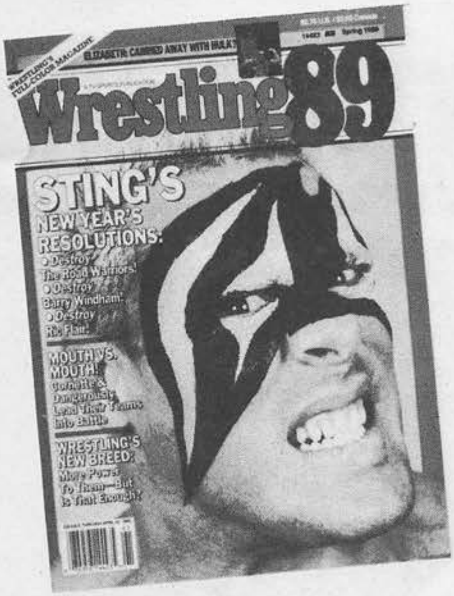

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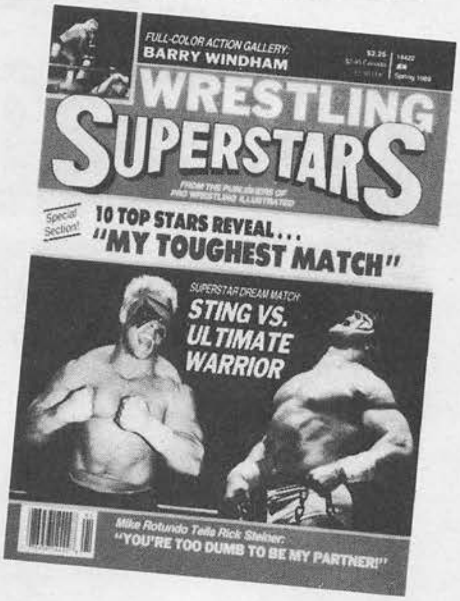

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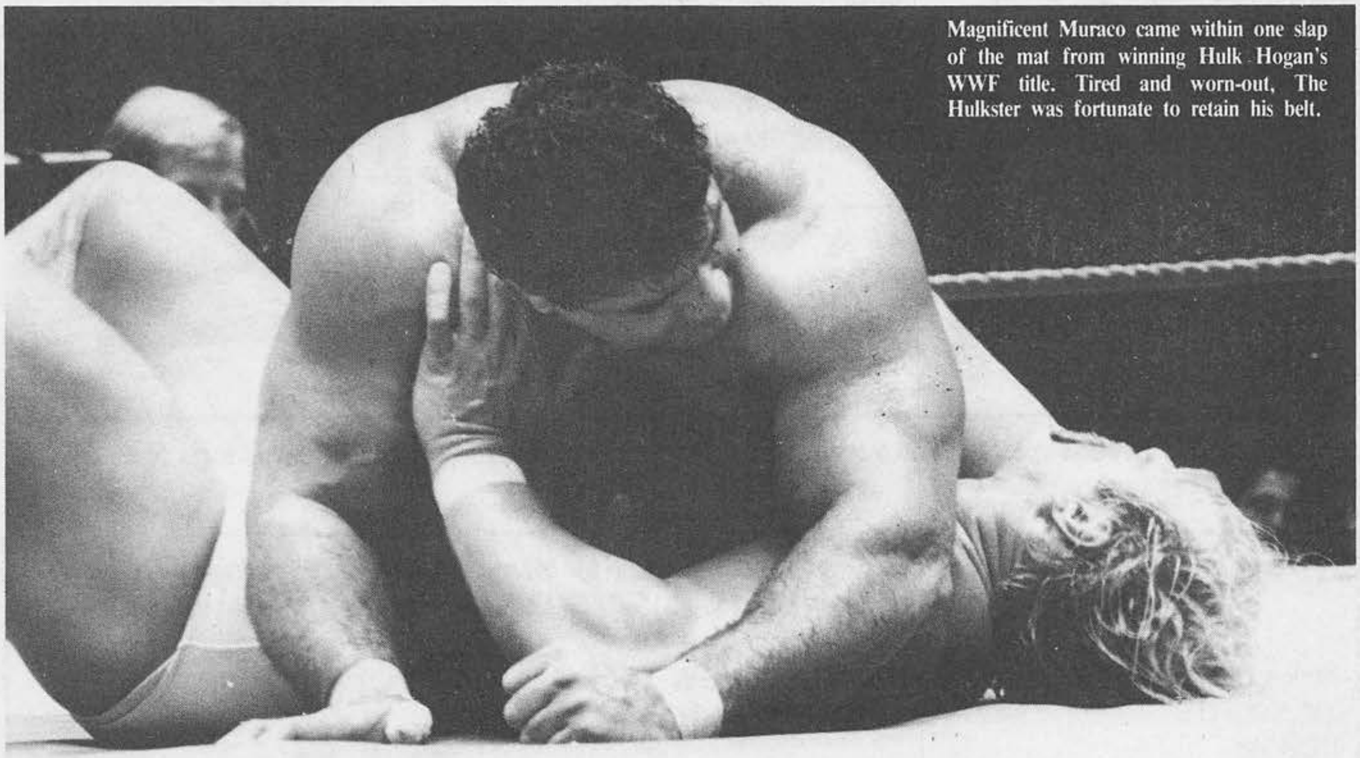
Photos by David Fitzgerald & Judith Heiman

Worn-Out Hogan Loses To Muraco:

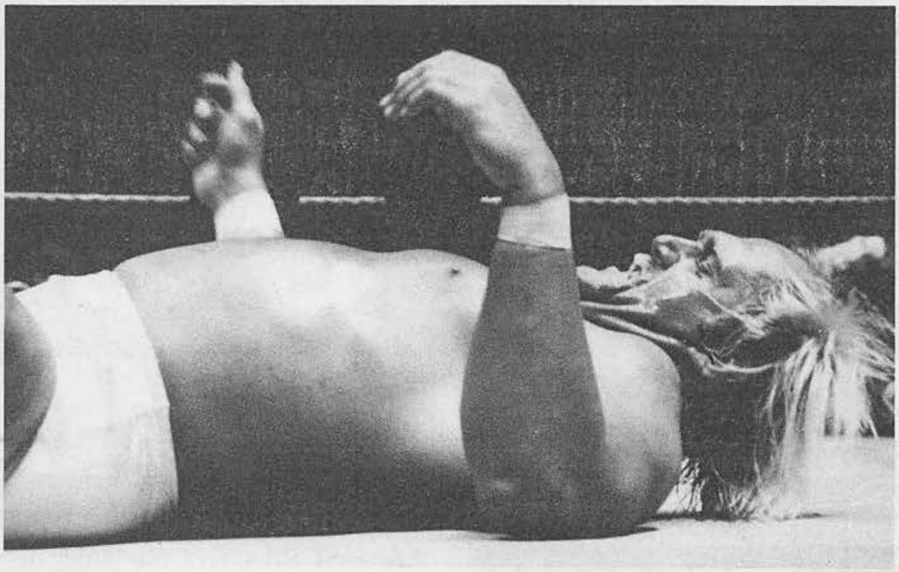
GIVE THE HULKSTER



Magnificent Muraco came within one slap of the mat from winning Hulk Hogan's WWF title. Tired and worn-out, The Hulkster was fortunate to retain his belt.

Anyone who saw Hulk Hogan's match in "WrestleMania" saw a man consumed by the responsibilities of being champion. Dividing his time between press conferences, talk shows, guest appearances, and training, Hogan desperately needed to rest. He didn't, and now his title reign seems in jeopardy.

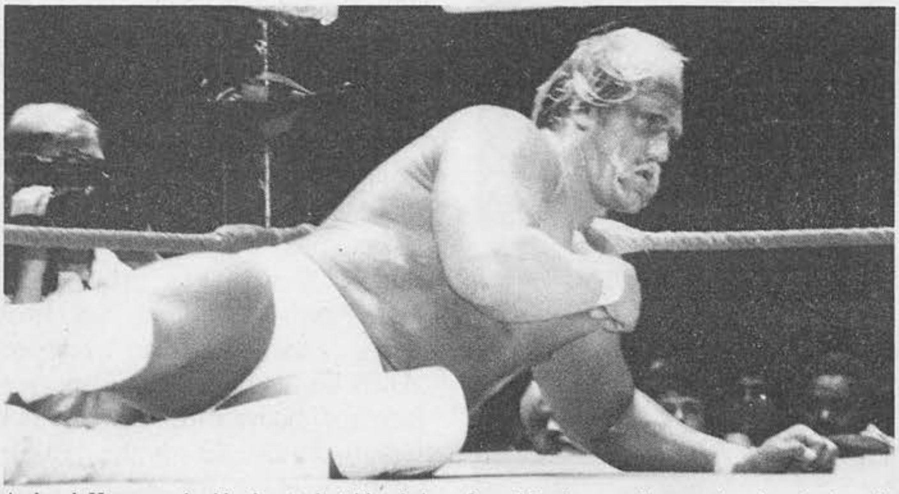
AH, THE OFF-SEASON! Music to the ears of hundreds of professional athletes. No pressure, no practice, no games, no reporters. Time away from the limelight, time to rejoin the rest of the human race. Ron Guidry fishes. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar listens to jazz. Wayne Gretzky gives speeches. Walter Payton spends time with his family. And those are the *overachievers.*



A REST!

Most athletes spend their off-seasons in the urgent pursuit of nothing. (Although in all fairness, some players have worked hard on their *tans*.) Athletes, in their own way, imitate fruits and vegetables: when they're out of season, they're unobtainable.

For those of us permanently out of uniform, the rigors of a professional athlete's season are unimaginable. Let's forget about the six and seven figure contracts that delude us into uttering ridiculousness such as, "For that kind of money I'd get in the ring with Marvin Hagler," or, "For that dough I'd line up opposite Too Tall Jones."



A dazed Hogan grabs his throat, but it's obvious from his glassy-eyed expression that he doesn't know where he is (above). A double-chop by Muraco brings Hogan to his knees (below left). Early in the match, Hogan has the advantage as Muraco begs for mercy (below right). But as the match wore on, Hogan's stamina seemed to disappear.

We can all give that jive a rest. After seeing the wounded bodies that file into a locker room after a football game or a basketball game or a prizefight or any other sporting contest where body contact is the rule, one immediately understands how the money is earned. When one realizes that the average career expectancy of a professional athlete is under six years, any second-guessing as to why they earn as much as they do must be tossed. They deserve every penny.

Which brings us around to another contact sport, professional wrestling, and the man many view as its leading attraction, Hulk Hogan. Wrestling is unlike any sport in the world. It is always in season. Promoters do not recognize holidays, matches are never called on account of rain. A competitive wrestler might wrestle up to six nights a week throughout the year. Don't let a little unsightly flab deceive you: Wrestlers are arguably the best-conditioned athletes in the world.

Given the unique demands of the sport, most wrestlers routinely take several days off every few months, or at least go on what are loosely termed as working vacations to other areas of the country or world. These little rest junkets are necessary to preserve both the body and the mind, and, given the natural resilience of pro wrestlers, it appears to be all that they need.

Hulk Hogan is not ordinary, even by the extraordinary standards set by professional wrestlers. He is the Hulk, the Ninth Wonder of World, leader of Hulkamania, a one-man multimillion-dollar industry.

He's more visible, more famous, more popular, and more recognizable then any wrestler in the world today. Appropriately, Hogan was the centerpiece of the most highly publicized wrestling promotion in history. "WrestleMania" owes much of its success to the tireless promotion of one man, Hulk Hogan.

In the weeks preceding the

(Continued on page 58)

HOGAN vs. ORNDORFF:

WRESTLING'S HOTTEST FEUD

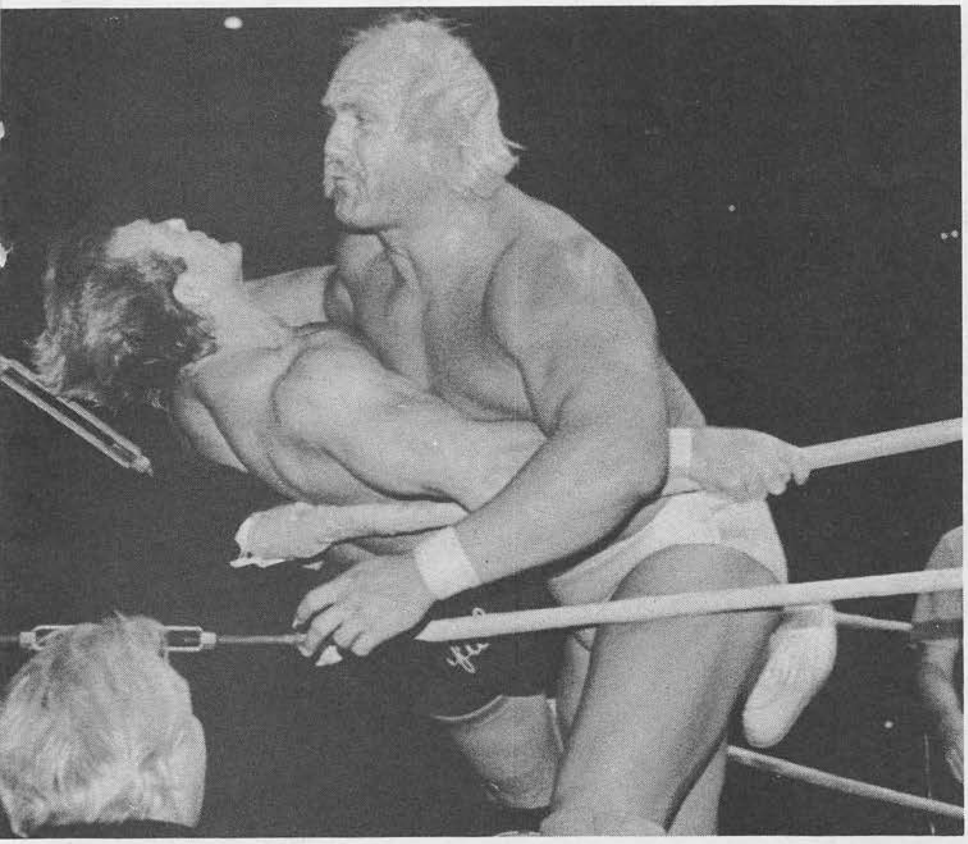
Hulk Hogan has his former friend, Paul Orndorff, right where he wants him: down on the mat.

A FAST STUDY of the WWF over the past two years reveals a federation ripe with turmoil and intrigue, an association more appropriately labeled *The Good, The Bad, And The Sometimes Both.* Starting with WrestleMania 1, when Roddy Piper and Bob Orton forsook Paul Orndorff, leaving "Mr. Wonderful" no choice but to align with Hulk Hogan, the fans have needed a scorecard to keep track of their heroes' dispositions.

Piper remained a high-profile menace, battling Hogan, Orndorff, Mr. T and whomever else the WWF promoters could throw at him—until recently, when a stint in a motion picture kept him from the ring. When he returned to discover that Adrian Adonis' "Flower Shop" had nudged his "Piper's Pit" from the small screen, the Scotsman rebelled. When he discovered his friend and longtime bodyguard, Cowboy Bob Orton, on the set of the "Flower Shop" working for Adonis, Piper raged.

Today—or at least as of press time—WWF fans have forgiven Piper for all his past offenses. He has become the area's most popular wrestler (for the moment, at least, nudging out perennial favorite Hogan). He has teamed with Hogan, though the two have not officially reconciled. Whether or not that will ever happen is an uncertainty. But one thing *is* for certain: There will not be a reunion between Piper and his former tag team partner Orndorff. Cit-

With the competitors so evenly matched, the fans may prove to be the decisive factor in the Hogan-Orndorff wars



ing irreconcilable differences, Orndorff recently broke from Hogan's camp, and has engaged the WWF champ in a series of brutal title matches.

Piper and Orndorff both claim that fan support is irrelevant to their overall game plans. They are careful to emphasize their independence as professional wrestlers. However, they seem locked into an unnatural cycle, one in which won/lost records take a back seat to personal feuds, one where ego becomes the dominant factor.

While Hulk Hogan's ego remains as large as his biceps, his hammerlock on the WWF is due more to his consistency than anything else. While better wrestlers have challenged for Hogan's title, the champion has relied on a straightforward approach in keeping it. Hogan has simply outlasted his opponents,

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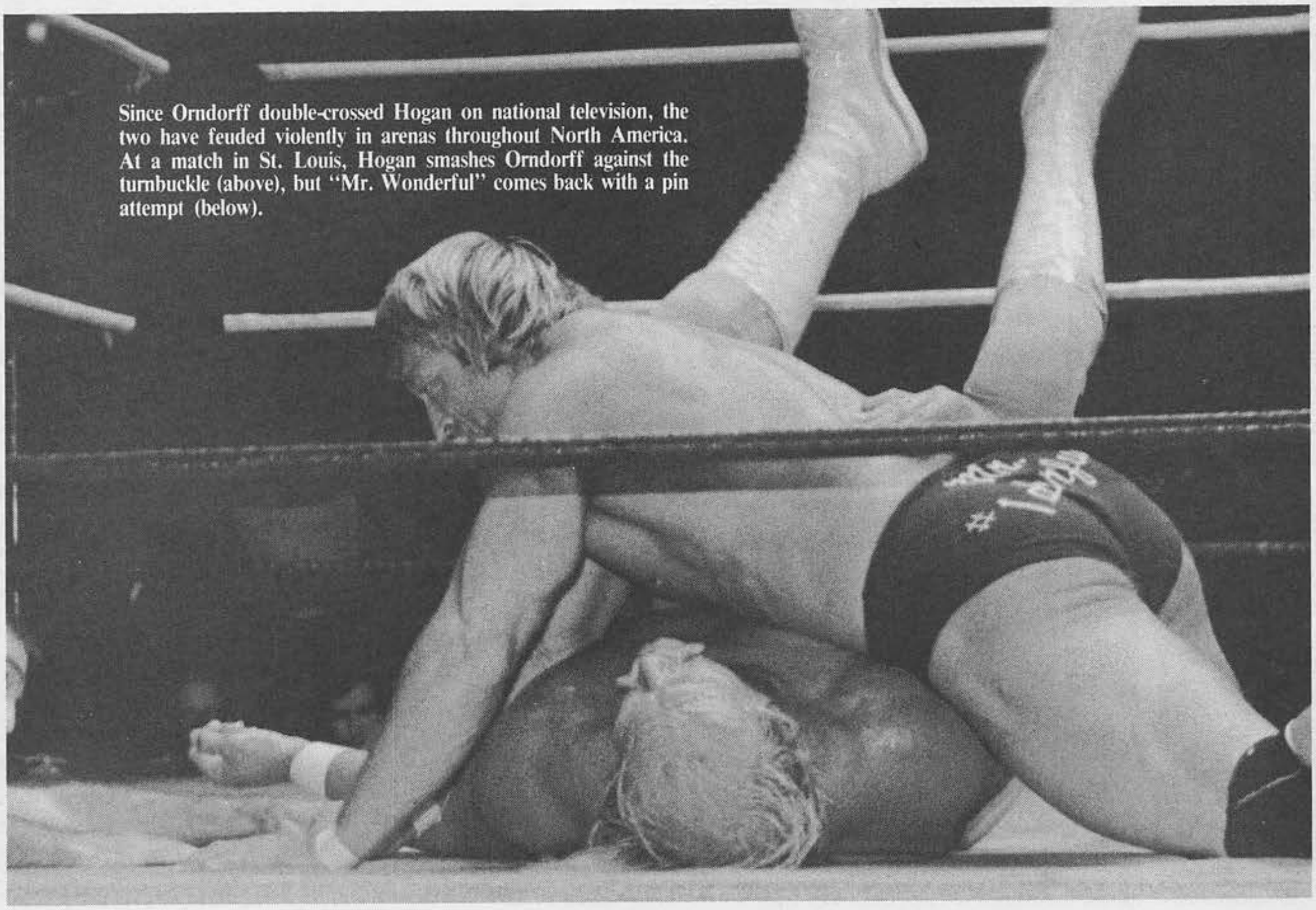
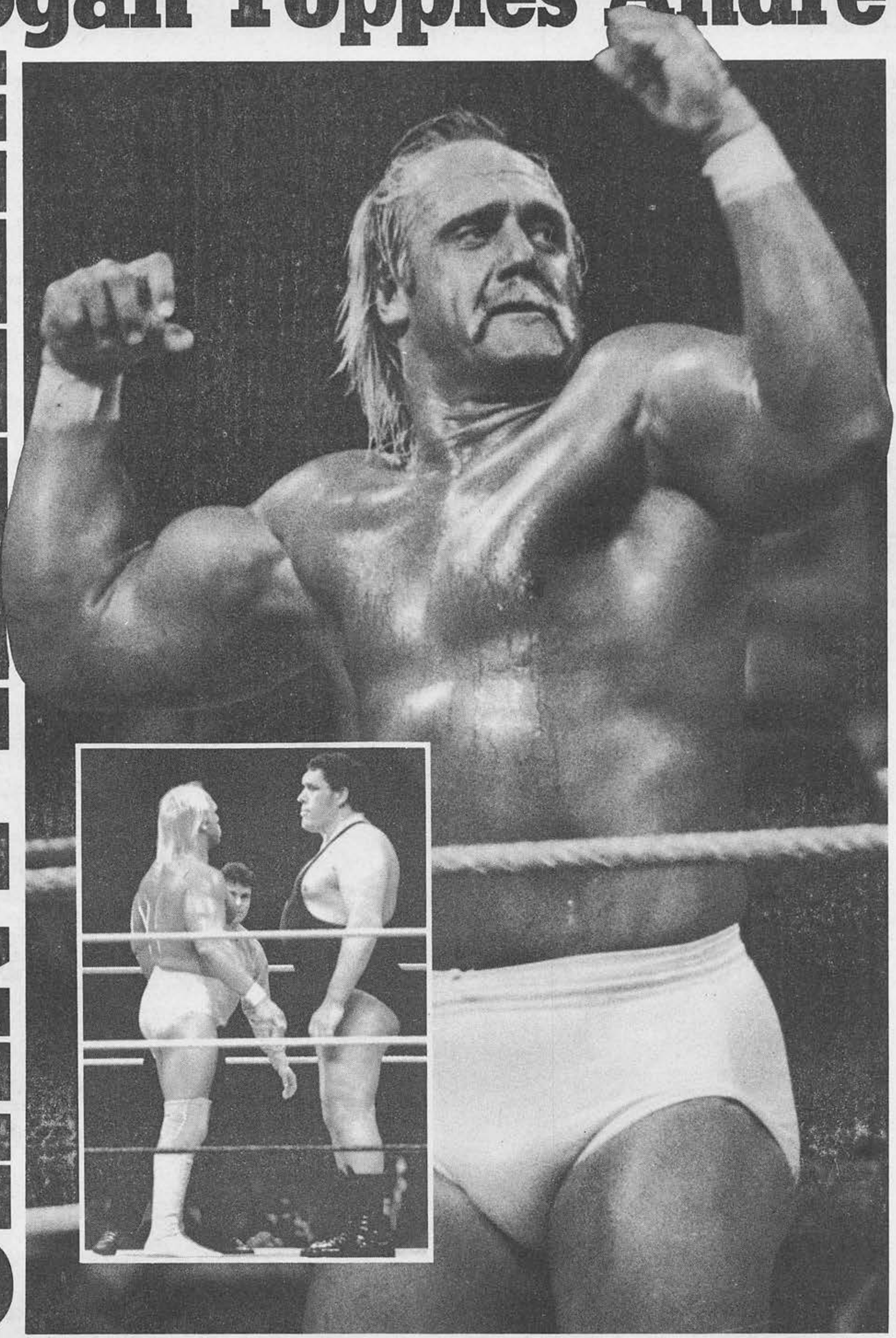


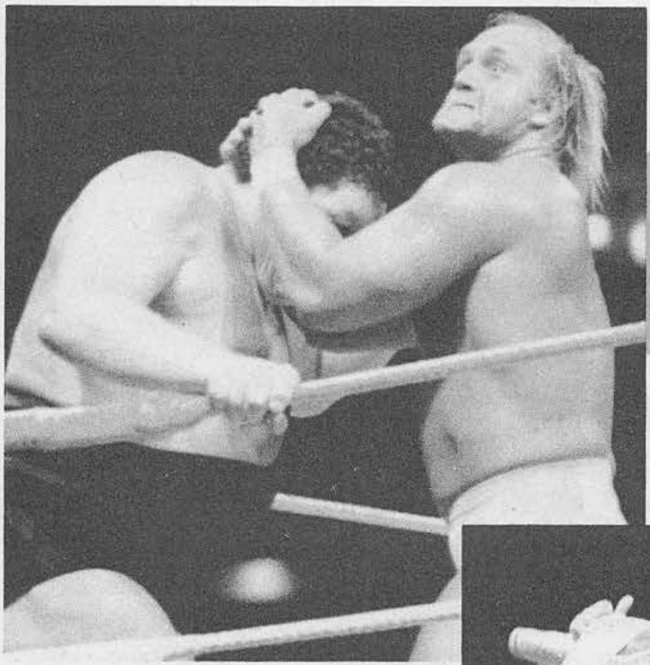
Since Orndorff double-crossed Hogan on national television, the two have feuded violently in arenas throughout North America. At a match in St. Louis, Hogan smashes Orndorff against the turnbuckle (above), but "Mr. Wonderful" comes back with a pin attempt (below).

Hogan Topples Andre

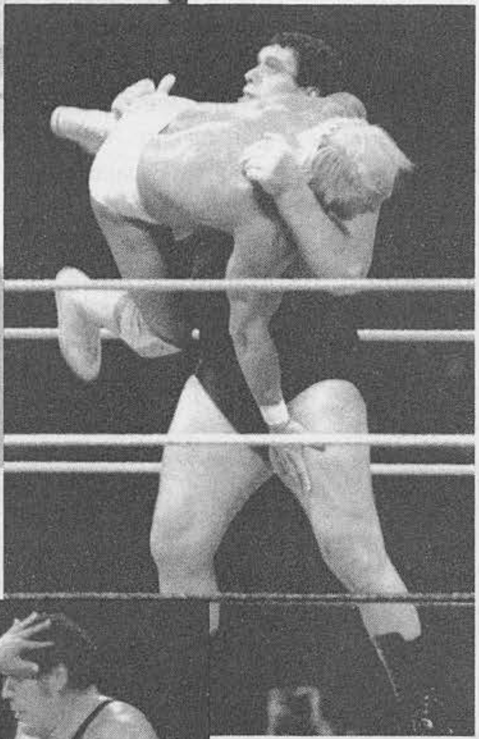
GIANT KILLER!



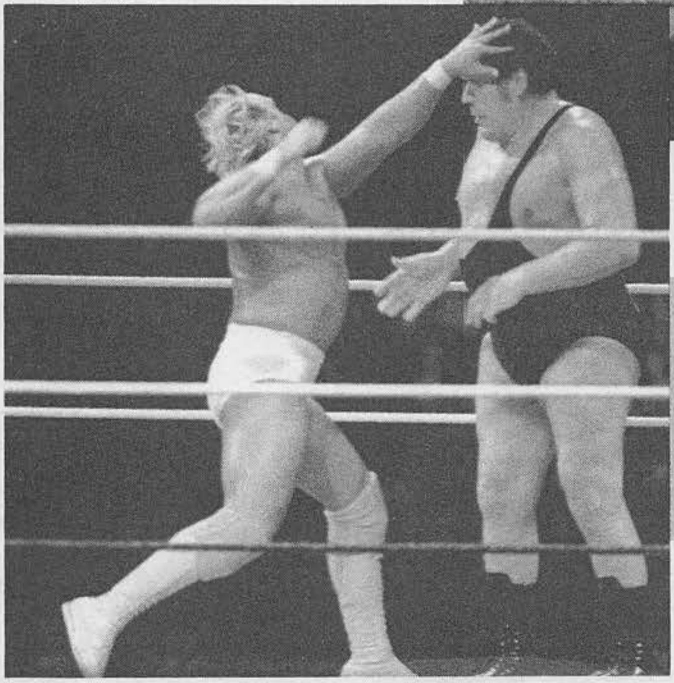
At WrestleMania III



WWF World champion Hulk Hogan looks to the crowd for inspiration after he finally gains the advantage over Andre the Giant in their title match at WrestleMania III.



Andre lifts Hogan up for a bodyslam. For years, the Giant had been waiting for a title shot. He finally got his chance after turning rulebreaker and hiring Bobby Heenan to manage him. This shocked the champion, who says he had admired and respected Andre for many years.



The champion slugs Andre. Many fans thought that Andre was terribly out-of-shape for the match, therefore Hogan's victory was less impressive than it should have been. Nevertheless, Hogan has proven he is the man to beat in the WWF.

The largest indoor crowd in North American history was on hand at The Pontiac Silverdome to witness an epic confrontation between WWF World champion Hulk Hogan and the undefeated Andre the Giant. When it was over, Hogan was crowned, once and forever, the Giant killer!

HISTORY HAS A strange way of repeating itself. Lightning sometimes does strike twice. What goes around *does* come around. And so it was in the opening moments of the main event at WrestleMania III, when Andre the Giant had Hulk Hogan pinned to the mat, and the WWF World championship belt seemed to be within his grasp.

Suddenly, it was August 1980 in New York's Shea Stadium, when the beloved Andre the Giant, still undefeated, still the people's champion, took on a hated young up-and-comer named Hulk Hogan. Andre unleashed the full force of his enormous strength and had Hogan at a disadvantage for most of that match. In the end, Andre delivered a powerslam to pin Hogan, but in the following days, videotapes of the match revealed that Hogan had thrown Andre off just as the referee made the three-count.

The decision stood. Seven years later, WWF World champion Hulk Hogan got revenge.

Not more than 10 seconds had elapsed in their epic March 29 bout at The Pontiac Silverdome when Hogan tried to slam Andre but fell backward under his own weight. Andre covered Hogan for the pin, and referee Joe Marella gave the three-count. But, Hogan had lifted his shoulder a fraction of a second be-

(Continued on page 46)

FOR THE LOVE OF ELIZABETH...

RANDY SAVAGE MUST BEAT HULK HOGAN!

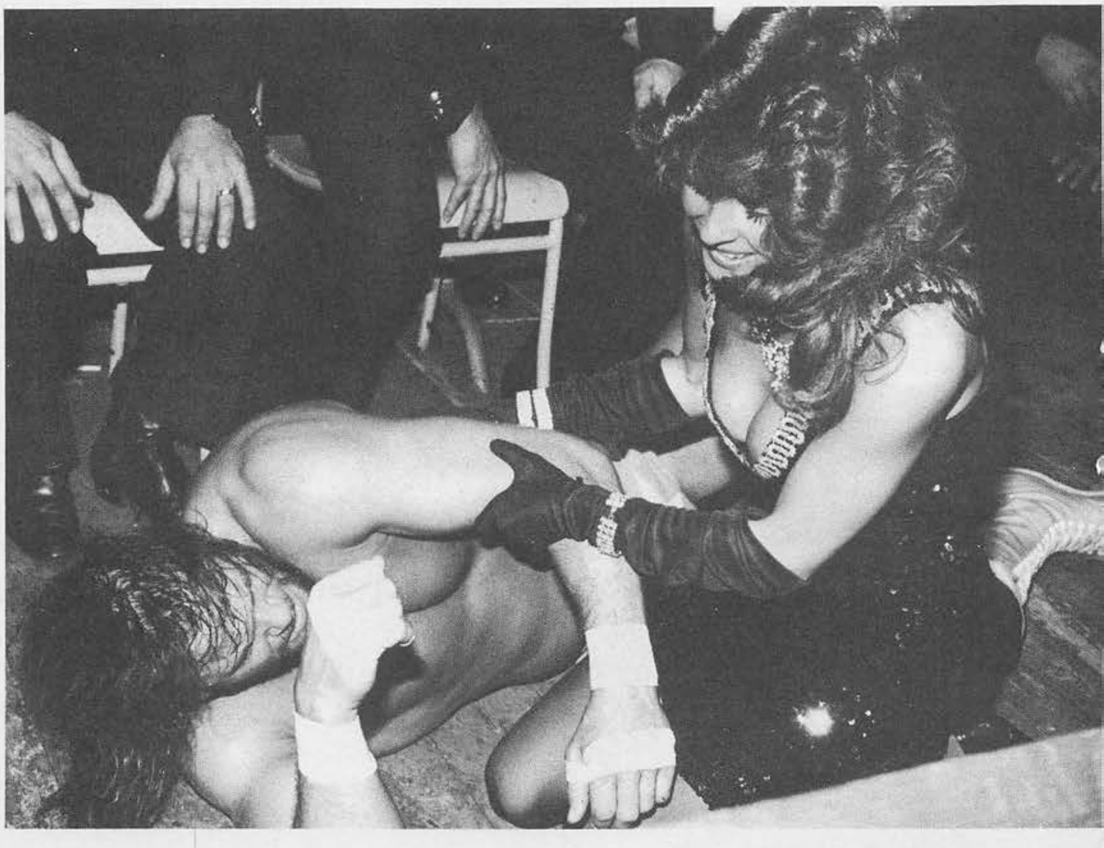
Savage ignores Elizabeth before the match (above). Elizabeth tries to soothe Savage, who has been thrown from the ring (below).

IT WAS AS plain as the cut of Miss Elizabeth's dress. While Randy Savage was waging war against WWF champion Hulk Hogan, Elizabeth's gaze was not, as one might suspect, in the ring where her man was being terrorized by a ferocious Hogan assault. Rather, her attention went past the ropes, to the press table, where Hogan's bejewled championship belt dangled in regal splendor.

"Hey legs, you like the belt, don'tcha?" a ring denizen cackled from the third row. "Ya better snap a pic, beautiful, cuz it's leaving the same way it came in. Around the Hulk's waist."

This drew a beefy chorus of "you betchas" and "right ons" from the veteran legion of Hulkamaniacs that filled the ringside seats. It also snapped Elizabeth from her trance. She blushed and turned her wavering attention back

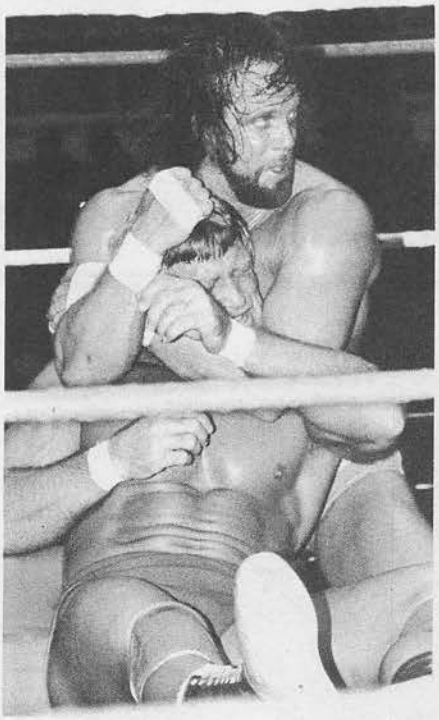
Either Randy Savage wins the WWF title or he risks losing his stunning manager, Elizabeth. Friends say that Elizabeth means so much to him that he'll either kill Hulk Hogan or die trying



between the ropes, where her embarrassment soared when she discovered there was no Randy Savage.

"Hey, sugar, ya better start paying attention," spit a toothless patron, backed by the relentless cheering brigade. "He's on the other side of the ring. *And he's lonely, toots.* Ya better help 'em. Unless ya wanna keep lookin' at the belt. Ah ha ha!" The fans doubled over in unifying laughter and the color red again painted Elizabeth's body.

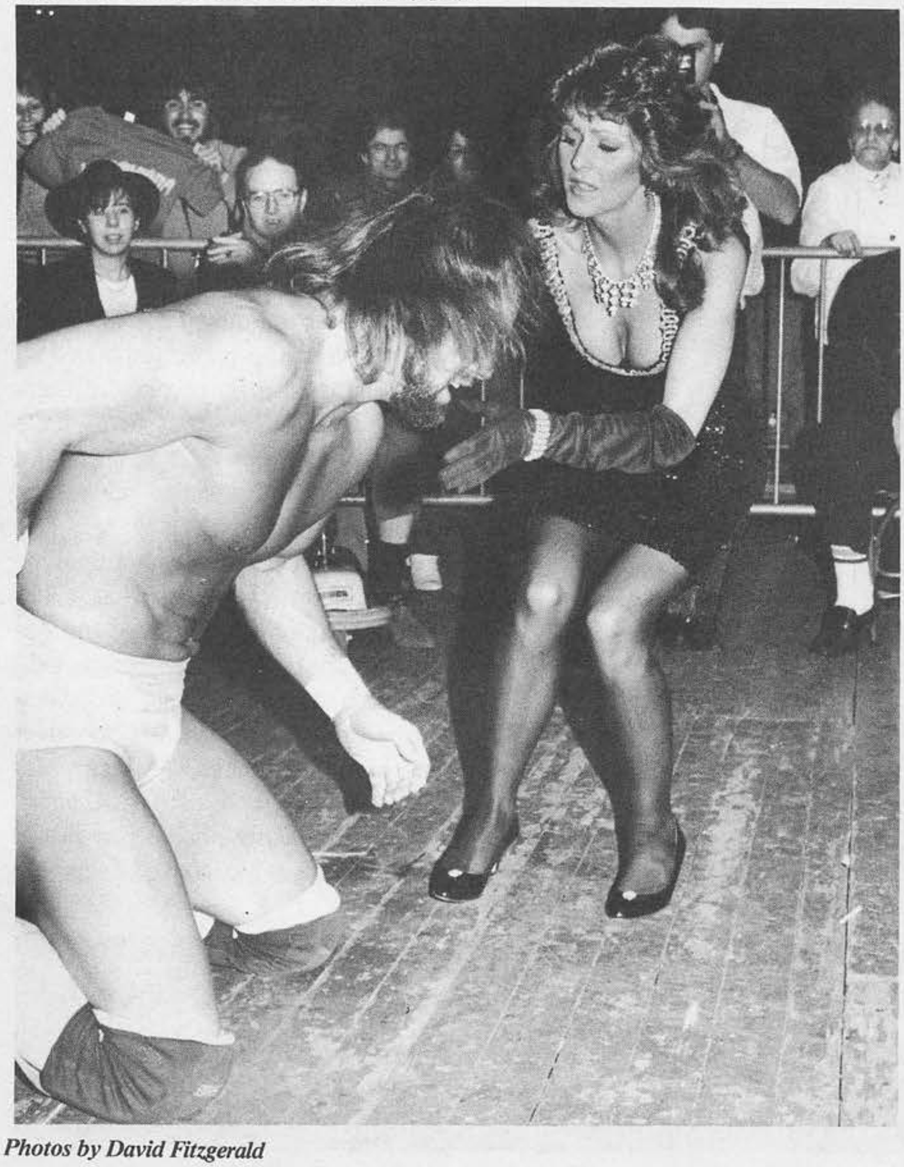
Meanwhile, Savage had raised himself up and fumed outside the ring in circles of distracted helplessness. Elizabeth's fixation with Hogan's belt had not gone unnoticed. He had been so preoccupied with Elizabeth's preoccupation that he failed to notice Hogan circle behind him. The next thing he saw was the concrete arena floor, when his head and it forged a sudden, unwelcome friendship.

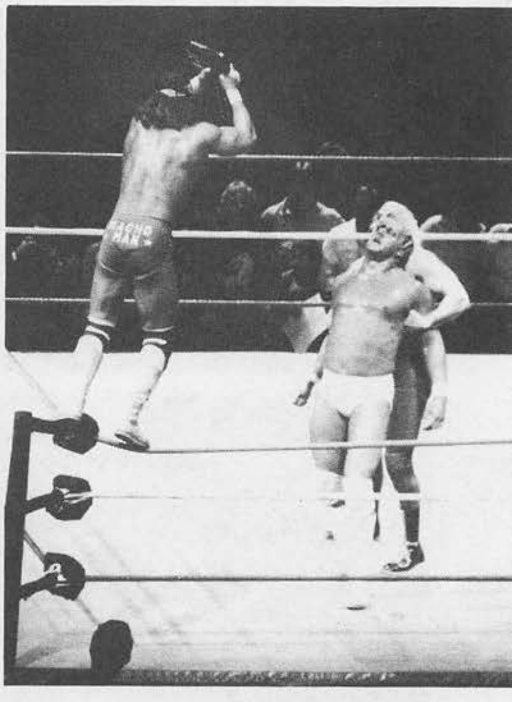


In his anxiety, Savage failed to notice a loose strand of rope that jutted out from under the ring. The rope hooked on to his bootlace as he stormed angrily by and sent him hurtling back down to the hard floor. The fans rose to their feet in laughter, which increased with each unsuccessful attempt Savage made to untie himself. Elizabeth hurried over to his side and he met her glance of apolgetic concern with one of cold penetrating hatred, andshied away from her touch.

"I think he's mad at you, toots," cried another Hogan fan. "You look *mahvelous!*" screamed another. Elizabeth ignored the fans and Savage's wounded ego and cooly administered

Savage keeps an eye on Elizabeth as he applies a sleeperhold on Paul Orndorff (above). Elizabeth encourages Randy to return to the ring (below). Savage interferes in a Hulk Hogan-Jesse Ventura match, leaping from the ropes and slamming the WWF champion across the face with his own title belt (right).





Photos by David Fitzgerald

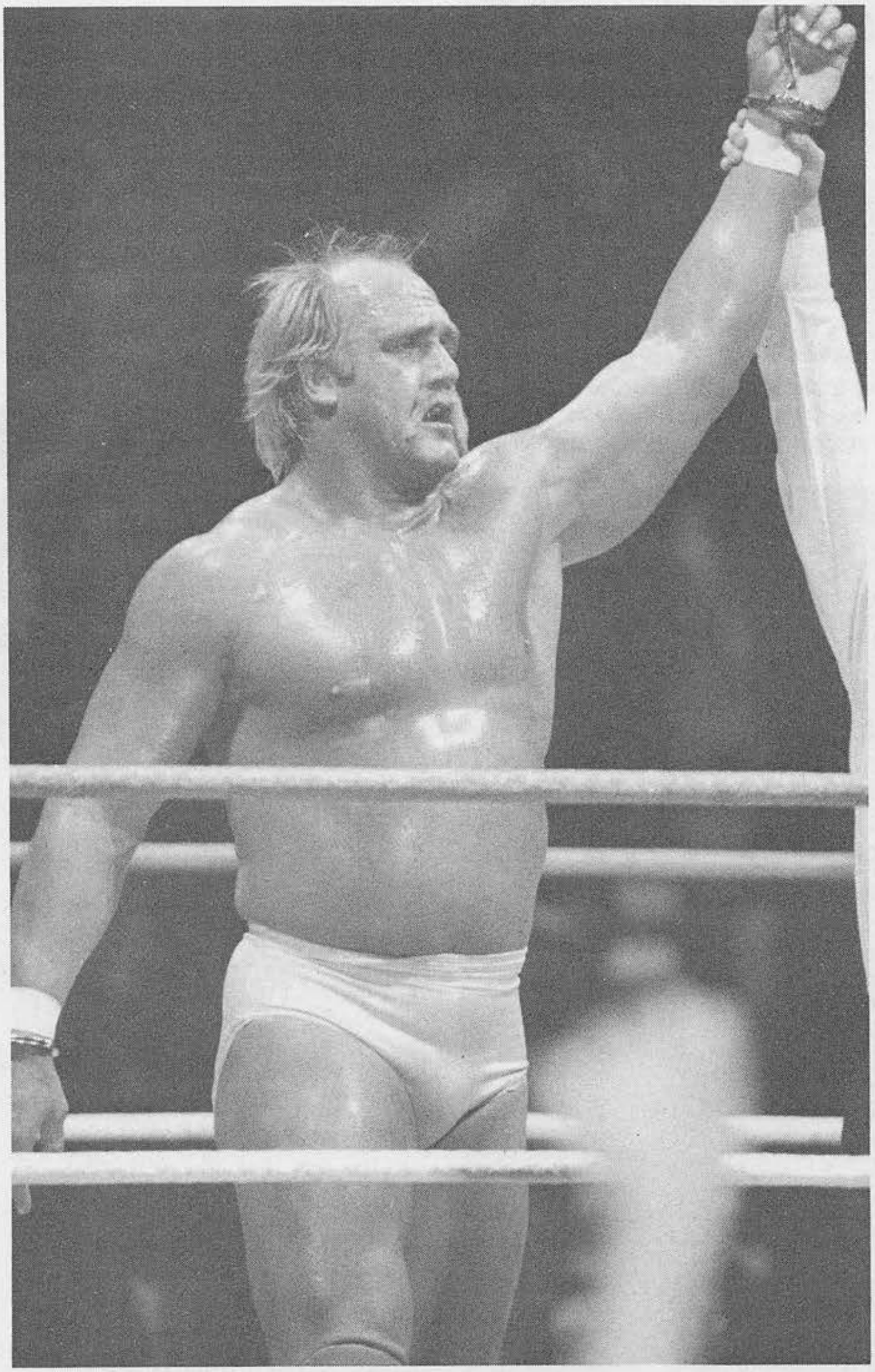
to his bruises. They exchanged several silent words and she released him back into the ring, her grip on his forearm lingering longer than usual.

The match resumed. Elizabeth's attention remained riveted on the ring, where she was able to see her charge miss a spectacular flying body press and fall victim to the referee's three-count. She massaged Savage's right arm as Hogan had his lifted in victory, his belt glistening in the bright flash of the cameras' lights.

As the two limped slowly back to the dressing room, they were plied with

(Continued on page 48)

HULK HOGAN:



By Bob Smith

SEVEN YEARS AFTER it began, it's clear the nation is still swept up in the incredible phenomenon known as Hulkamania. The long lines at the arena box offices prove it. The long lines to see *No Holds Barred* prove it.

Most importantly, the WWF World championship belt that rests around Hulk Hogan's waist proves it.

Just months into his second title reign after defeating Randy Savage at WrestleMania V, Hogan is preparing to face what may be the most impressive list of contenders he's ever had to deal with—and that's what could makes Hogan's immediate future the most dangerous period of his career.

Hogan spent much of June making promotional appearances for *No Holds Barred,* the action film that soared to the number-two spot on the national box office charts during the first week of its release. The public responded by attending the film in unexpected numbers, but if Hogan wants to continue to reign as champion, it is imperative that he focus his attention on matters of the squared circle.

There are eight men who are lusting to take away everything Hogan has worked for. Some, like Savage and Andre the Giant, he has met before. Others, such as Curt Hennig and Zeus, are waiting not-so-patiently for their first title opportunities. And it's possible that men such as The Ultimate Warrior and Dusty Rhodes may decide to shock the world and challenge the champion.

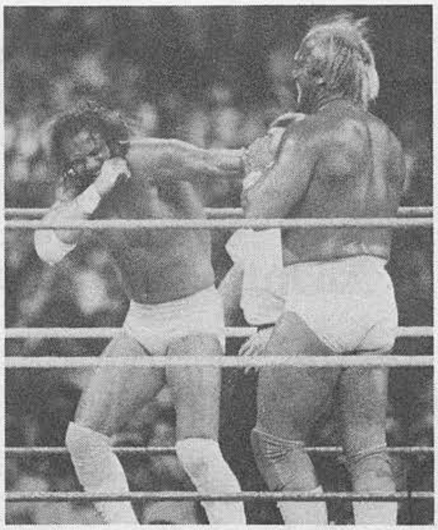
The popularity of Hulk Hogan is at an all-time high, particularly after the publicity generated by the film *No Holds Barred.* But Hogan had best get his mind back to reality, because a host of contenders are determined to make his second WWF World title reign much shorter than his first

BRACING FOR THE DANGERS AHEAD

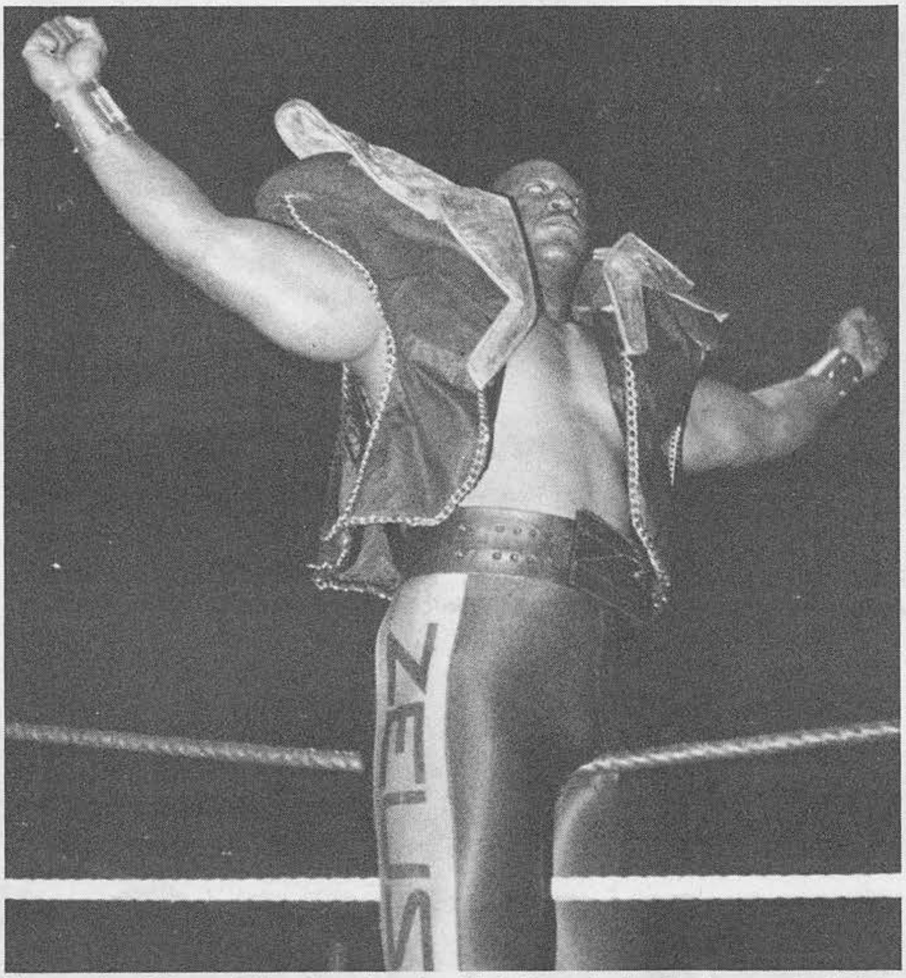
THE CONTENDERS

Zeus: Despite the fact that Zeus is a novice to the sport, the matchup between Hogan and his *No Holds Barred* co-star is one that fans are clamoring to see. At 6'10" and 343 pounds, it's obvious that Zeus has power to spare. Many are claiming that Zeus has even more strength than the 6'8", 302-pound Hogan, and the giant former collegiate shot put champion is dying for his chance to prove it. Plus, Zeus is looking to avenge the embarrassment he claims to have suffered in losing to Hogan in the film. He's committed to not letting it happen a second time—this time in real life.

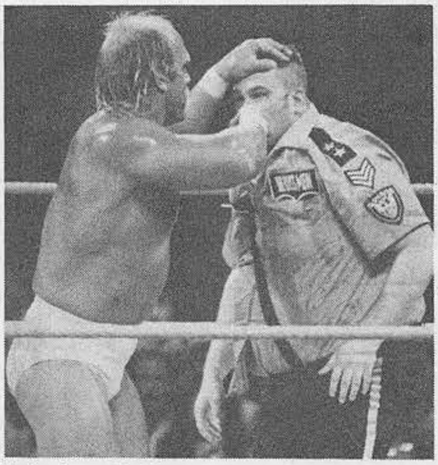
Randy Savage: "Macho Man" has already given Hogan all that he could handle during several rematches since WrestleMania V. The biggest reason? Savage's new manager, Sherri Martel, has proven to be more than just a distraction. This brazen woman has actually gotten physically involved in many matches, grabbing at Hogan when he's down on the mat, and often jumping on the back of the champion when he's thrown outside the ring. Combine Savage's aerial ability with Sherri's devious mind, and you've got a combination that could be successful in beginning *Savage's* second title reign.



Hogan twists Randy Savage's arm. "Macho Man" remains a top contender.



The massive 343-pound Zeus is anxious to defeat Hogan in the ring because he lost to Hulk's character Rip in the movie *No Holds Barred.*



Hulk slugs Big Bossman, who has given the champ several tremendous matches.

Big Bossman: Hogan has managed to defeat the 348-pound giant in several recent steel cage matches, but Bossman matches up with Hogan as well as any opponent Hogan has ever faced. On two occasions, Hogan managed to superplex Bossman to the canvas from the top of the cage, but both times Hogan injured his back in doing so. With more title opportunities, this former corrections officer could prove to be a lock for the championship—especially with the devious Slick in his corner.

(Continued on page 59)

MIL MASCARAS—

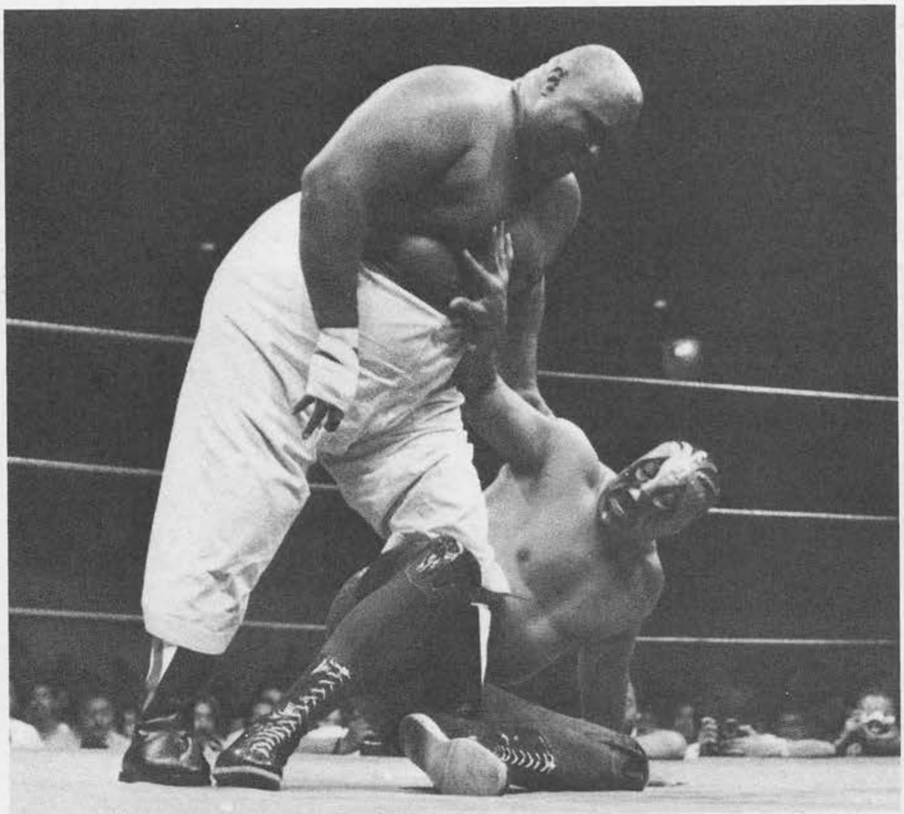
Like a knight of old, Mil Mascaras crusades for righteousness. His field of battle is any wrestling ring in the world. His enemies are those who threaten to destroy the sport for their own gain. Abdullah the Butcher is one such enemy. Mil's honor compelled him to accept Abdullah's challenge

BY MITSU MOROBITO,
Special Japanese Correspondent

THE JET LANDED just past midnight. Stiff and weary after the long flight, Mil Mascaras disembarked. I was waiting for him. We shook hands, exchanged greetings, and then drove to his hotel. I could see this was not the time to give him the particulars of his mission.

As I dropped him off at his hotel, Mil instructed, "Be here by nine. I want to know everything."

Everything, I thought, as I drove back to my home. How do you begin to describe the agony, the fear, and the sorrow brought to our island by Abdullah the Butcher? Some of the nation's best wrestlers were spending this night in hospital beds. At least two would never wrestle again. All because of Abdullah the Butcher's ruthless reign of terror?



Responding to the plea of Japanese wrestling promoters, Mil Mascaras flew across the world to battle the fearsome Abdullah the Butcher. Above: Mil tries to bring Abdullah to the mat with a scissors trip.

GLOBETROTTIN TROUBLESHOO

Abdullah uses his awesome strength to lift Mascaras in the air by his neck. The Masked Mexican somehow managed to escape the hold.

Though it had been less than a month, it was hard to remember Japanese wrestling before Abdullah came. Could there really have been a time when a stretcher wasn't needed at an arena? Did we once rest secure knowing that decency triumphed in our sport? Abdullah was like a plague that wiped out even the good memories of what came before its arrival.

Somehow, Mil Mascaras had heard of the horror. Mil is perhaps the best friend Japanese wrestling has; perhaps the best friend wrestling anywhere has. He immediately volunteered to come to the island and wrestle Abdullah. Because I've been following Abdullah's matches, Mil asked to see me to discuss the strategies Abdullah uses. I was honored to help.

The next morning, I arrived to find Mil studying films of Abdullah's matches. As he studied them intently, he also listened to me describe the matches. It was two in the afternoon before we were finished.

"I can see what's happening," Mil explained. "Whenever somebody starts conquering all, like Abdullah is doing, people in the area get scared. The fear feeds on itself, so its out of control. People are victimized by the fear more than the wrestler. It takes someone from outside,

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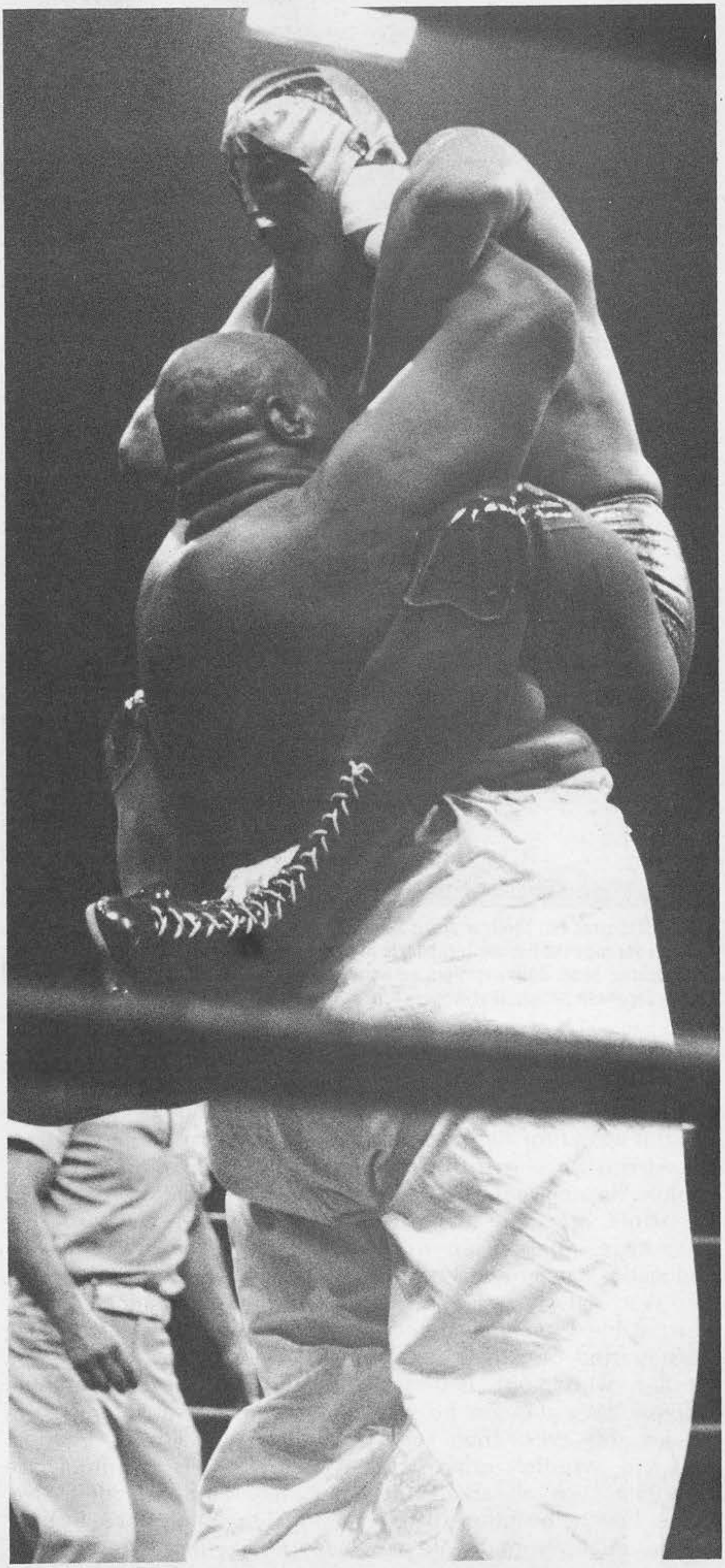
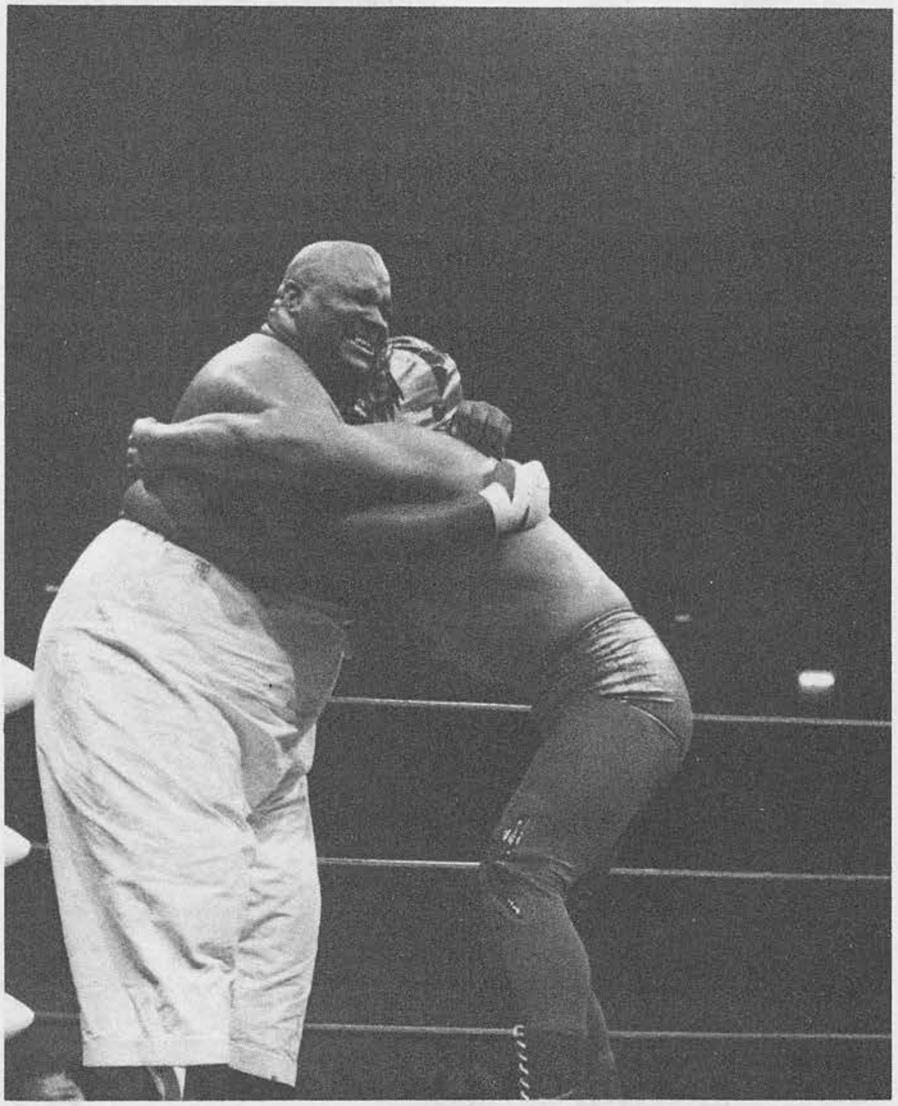
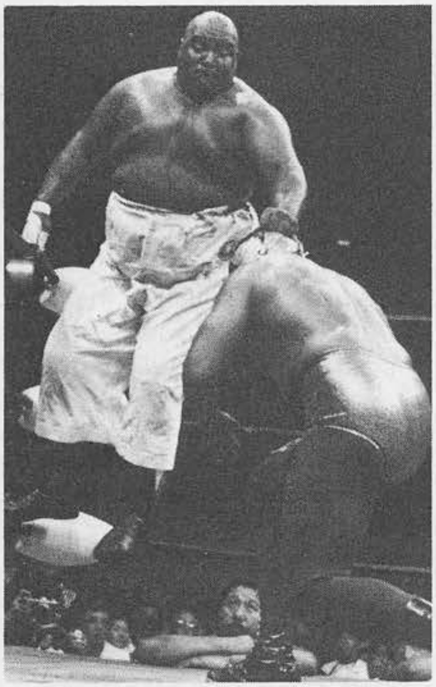


masked gladiator countered each maneuver with a maneuver of his own. It was a superb display of wrestling genius. Every move was economical, powerful, and effective. Abdullah gew more and more frustrated.

Then came the explosion. Abdullah turned into a raging beast. He slashed, clawed, bit, kicked, and brutalized his opponent. The crowd was silent in fear for Mascaras. I can't report what happened during those minutes as I was too scared to take notes.





Above: Mascaras can barely wrap his arms around Abdullah's gigantic body. Right: The Butcher ascends the bottom turnbuckle in preparation for an elbow smash to the back of Mascaras' neck. Both wrestlers were counted out of the ring, but Mascaras proved to the Japanese people that Abdullah is not to be held in awe.

someone who hasn't been infected by the terror, to stop the conqueror. That's what I'm here for. If it wasn't for this fear, half of Abdullah's opponent's could've beaten him.

"Don't get me wrong. Anywhere against anyone, Abdullah is dangerous. But with the fear on his side, he's unstoppable. I remember, when I first started out, there was a wrestler who kept battering everyone. We thought he was the greatest ever. Then some mediocre wrestler came and beat him. We all asked the winner how he beat the greatest wrestler of all. 'Nobody told me he was the greatest,' the mediocre grappler replied. I've never forgotten that.

"I'll take Abdullah. I owe it to the sport. Fear shouldn't be a weapon for anyone."

Two days later, Mil confronted Abdullah. If there can be majesty in brutality, there was majesty that night.

From the opening instant, Abdullah was at his meanest. He used every dirty trick in the book to cripple Mil. Everyone could see Abdullah was interested in winning but also in injuring. Most wrestlers would have become cautious, defensive, trying desperately not to be hurt. Mil isn't like most wrestlers.

With astonishing courage, the

No ring could contain such action. The two men spilled out of the ring and onto the arena floor. The referee counted as both men ignored him. They were still battling when the referee announced, "Double disqualification! They have been counted out!"

Abdullah heard the words and fled back to the dressing room. He no longer had any stomach for this war. Watching him go, Mil stood before the cheering crowd.

The next time Abdullah wrestled, you could sense the difference in the air. The fear was gone. Abdullah's opponent wrestled him to a draw. □

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August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

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August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

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November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

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July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

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November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

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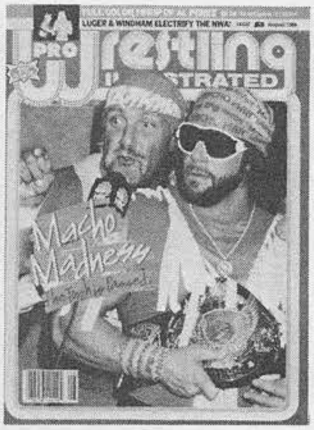
September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.



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February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

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December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

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April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner. **Savage**, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

May 1989/COLOR PINUP: Missy Hyatt. **Hogan**, Ultimate, Kerry, Luger, Steamboat, 10 stars in limbo.

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July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Steamboat**, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Hogan**, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

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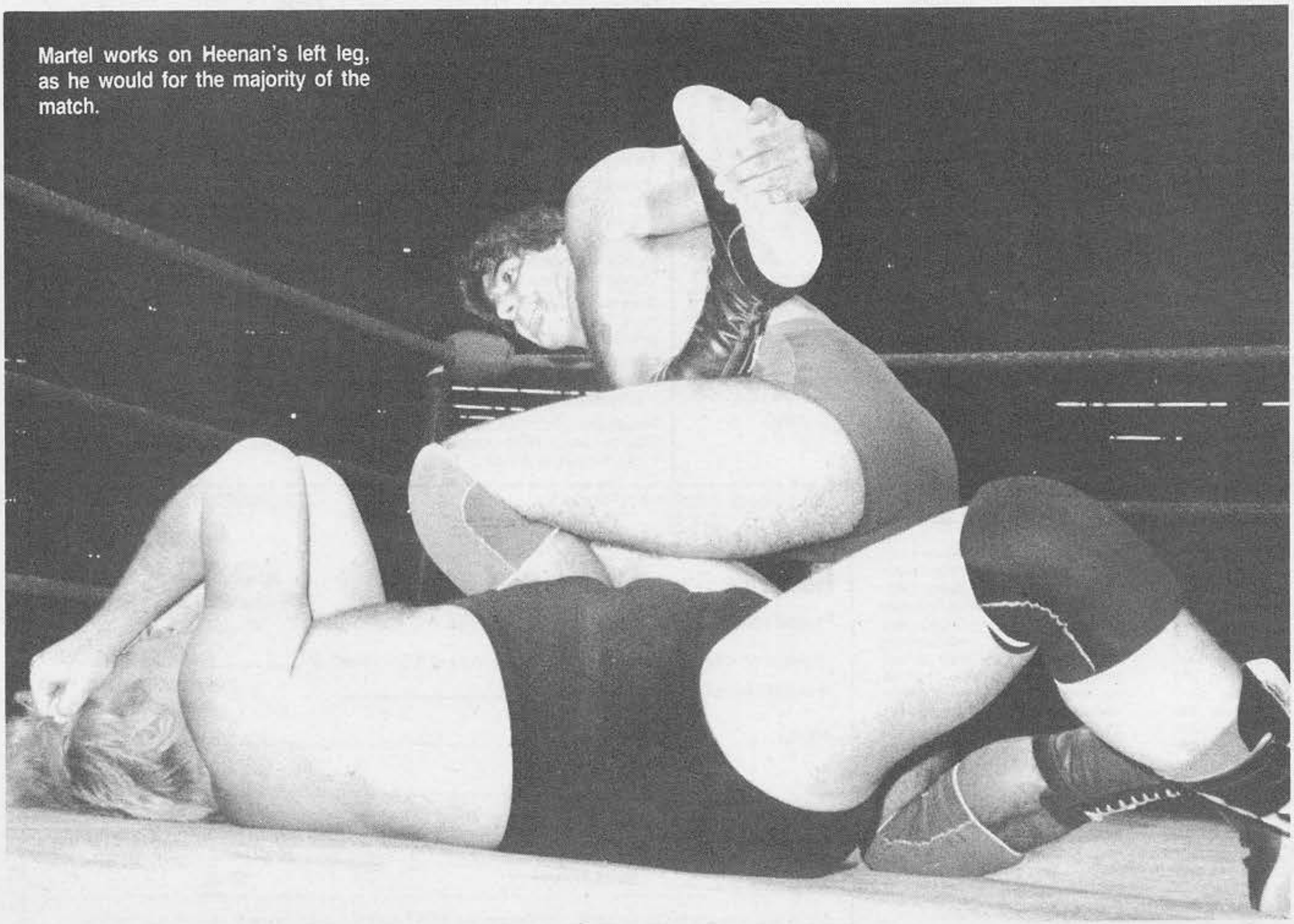
Martel vs. Heenan

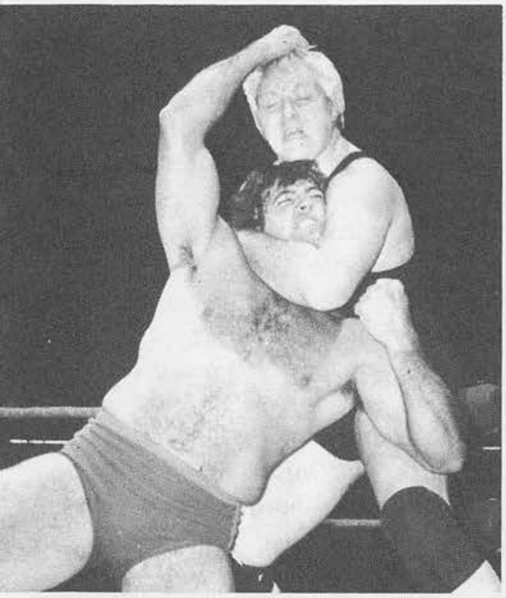
THE ONE MATCH BOBBY HEENAN COULD NOT WEASEL OUT OF

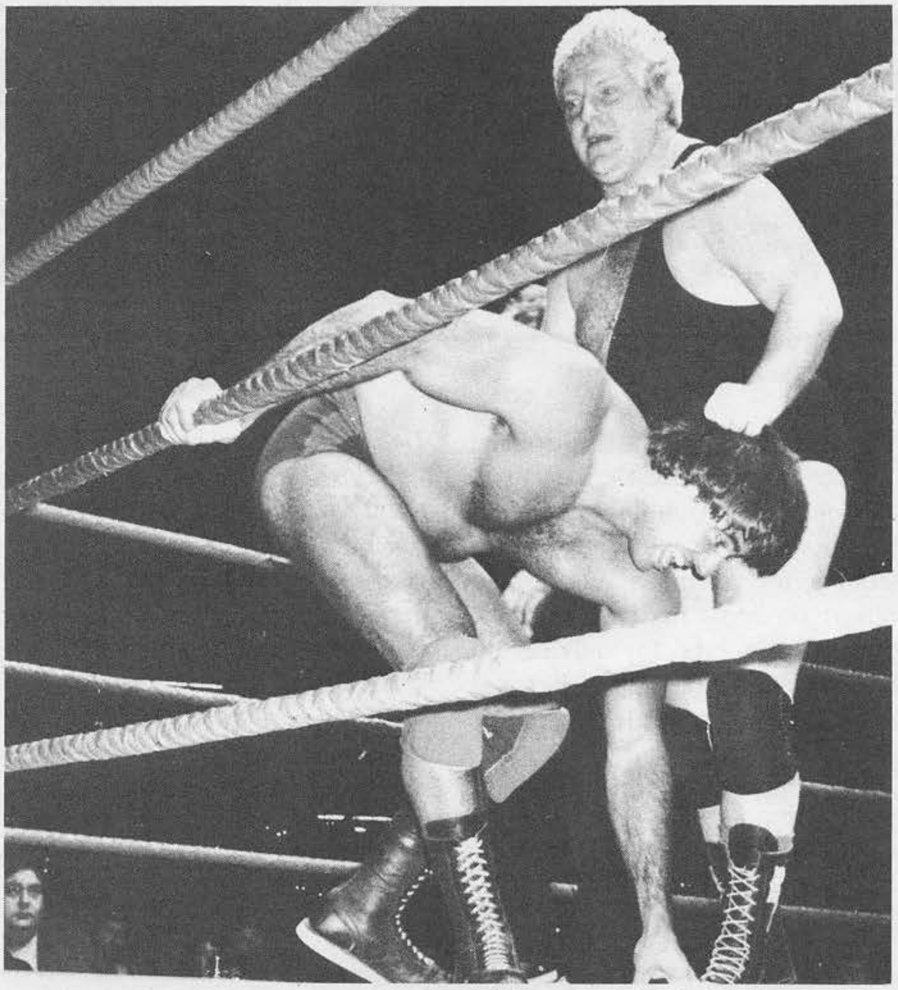
Rick Martel's charge toward Nick Bockwinkel's AWA World title has run into roadblock after roadblock. Most of those roadblocks have been erected by the champion's manager, Bobby Heenan. But Martel took a page out of Heenan's book of trickery when he got the manager into a ring from which there was seemingly no escape



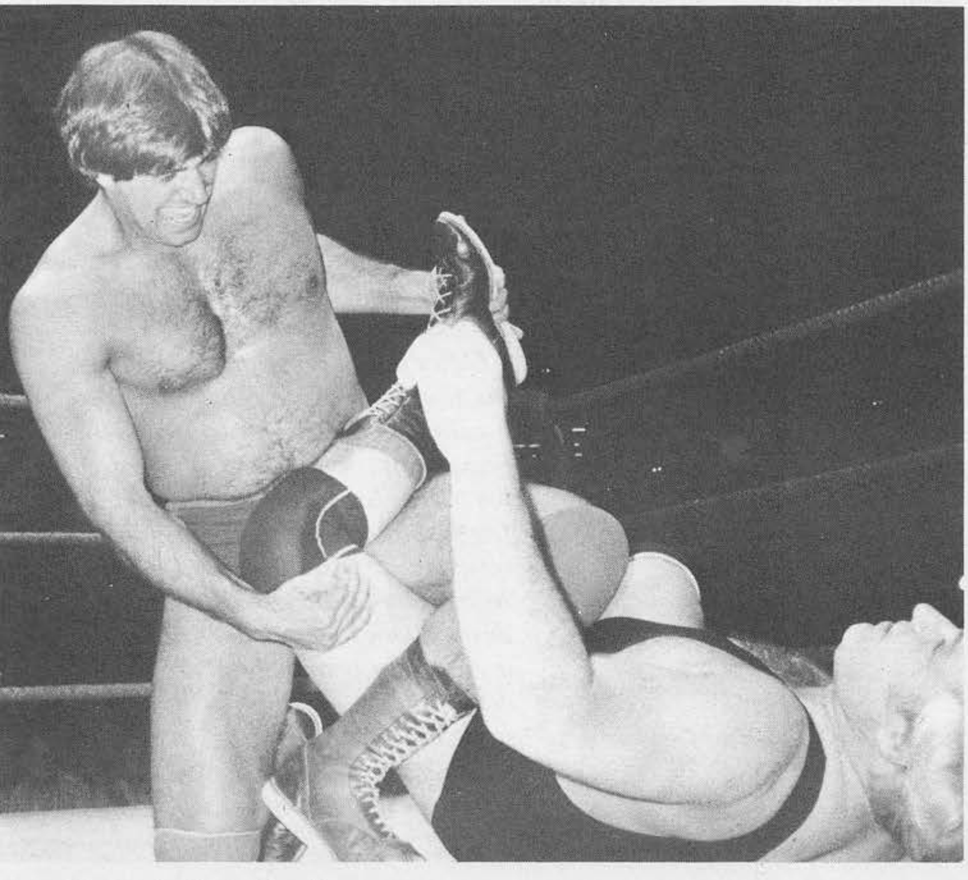
Martel works on Heenan's left leg, as he would for the majority of the match.

IT WAS A work of contractual genius. Every loophole was sewed up tightly. There was no back door, no escape hatch, not even the smallest of openings from which to squirm out. The signatures at the bottom of the contract read Bobby Heenan and Rick Martel. Then why were the promoters surprised? What was so special about this contract?





In a desperate attempt to free himself from a chokehold, Martel grabs a fistful of Heenan's hair (above left). Heenan returns the favor while contemplating his next move (above right). Rick seems to be taking joy in Heenan's pain (below).



What surprised them was that Heenan had nothing to do with the wording of the contract. The usually plotting and conniving Heenan was out-connived by Martel, sarcastically referred to by some as the "goody two-shoes" of the AWA.

"I knew he'd never expect it," Martel said. "He fell right into it. Now he has to play by *my* rules."

The rules were the highlight of the agreement. The special referee for the 20-minute time limit bout would be Curt Hennig, but that was something Heenan was aware of from the start. What the manager was not aware of was the stipulation that if Heenan intentionally got himself counted out of the ring, that is, if he just walked out on the match when the going got rough, as penalty he would have to sign a contract for a Nick Bockwinkel title defense against Martel "without Heenan's presence at ringside."

"I win either way," Martel ex-

(Continued on page 50)

Photos by Larry Barnhizer

'THE WRESTLER' REUNITES THE JAGGERS FAMILY

By Bill Apter

THE LETTER WAS addressed to me. I opened the envelope, as I open all my mail first thing in the morning. Usually, it's a letter from a fan asking a question, a report on some match, free-lance photos, requests for advice on breaking into wrestling, a personal letter to be forwarded to some wrestler.

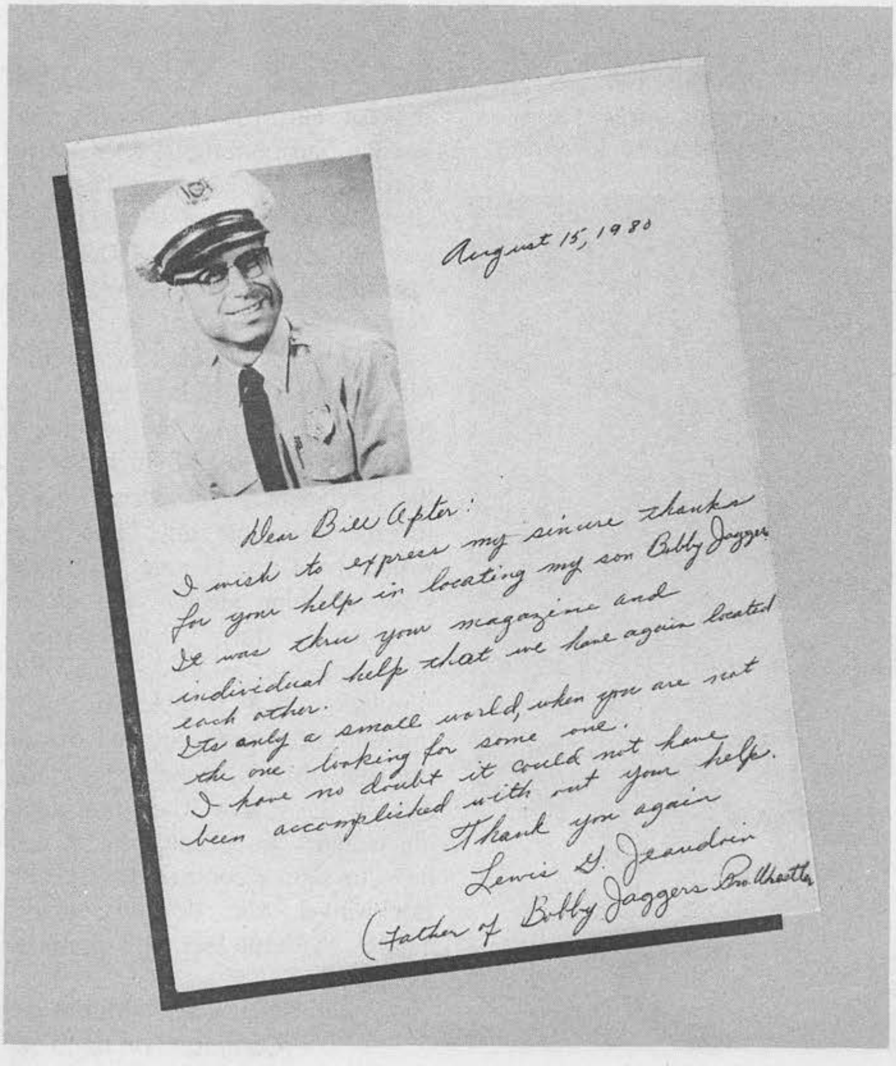
But this one was different. Very different.

Dear Bill Apter:

I wish to express my sincere thanks for your help in locating my son Bobby Jaggers. It was through your magazine and individual help that we have again located each other.

It's a small world only when you are not the one looking for someone.

I have no doubt it couldn't have been accomplished without your help.



August 15, 1980

Dear Bill Apter:
I wish to express my sincere thanks
for your help in locating my son Bobby Jaggers
It was thru your magazine and
individual help that we have again located
each other.
Its only a small world, when you are not
the one looking for some one.
I have no doubt it could not have
been accomplished with out your help.
Thank you again
Lewis G. Jeaudion
(Father of Bobby Jaggers Pro Wrestler)

The letter was signed Bobby Jaggers' father, Lewis Jeaudion.

Mr. Jeaudion enclosed a letter describing his ordeal. I decided to include it in its entirety.

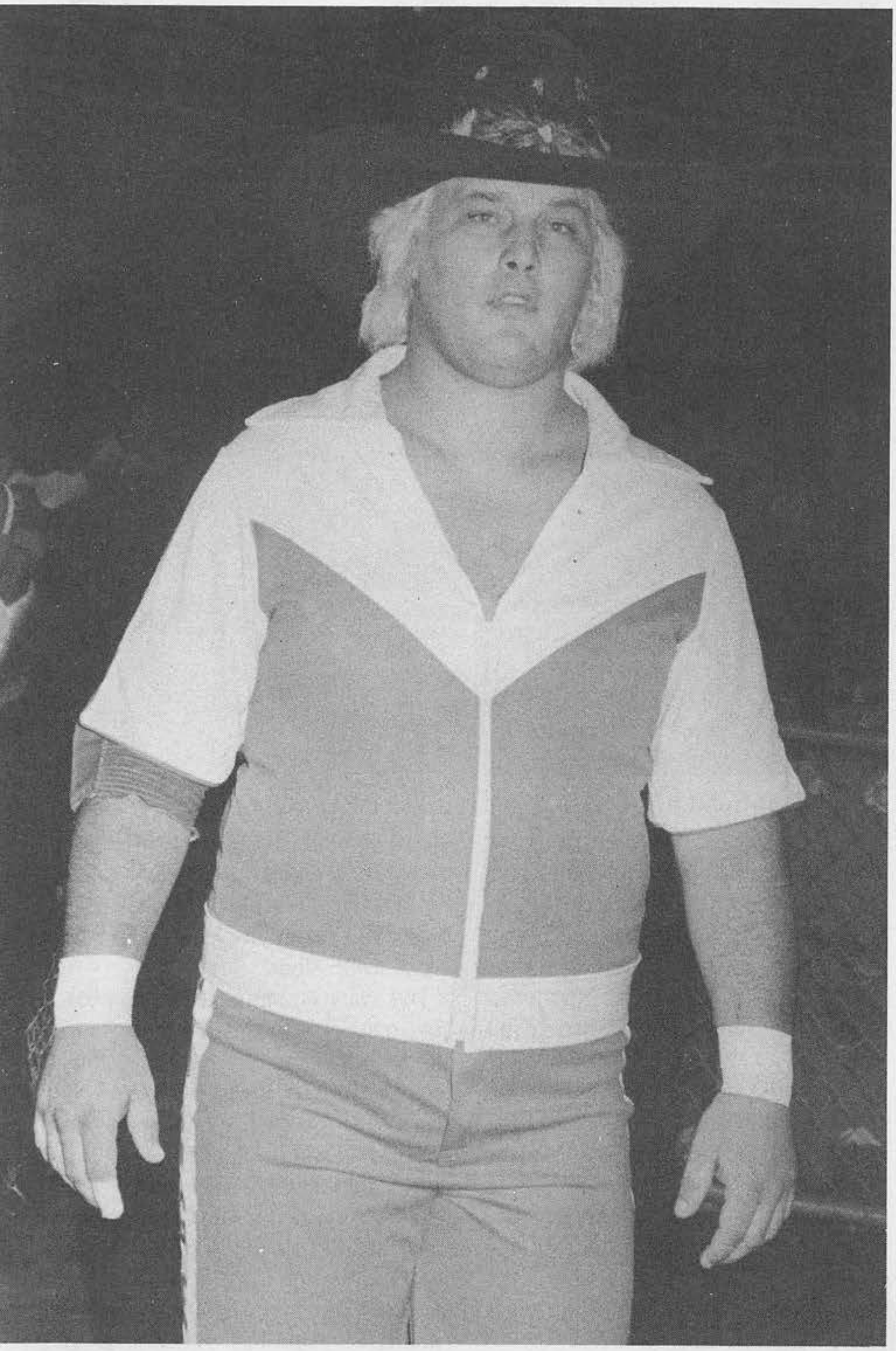
"His name was Bobby Jeaudion. Even as a little boy, he was big. I remember when Bobby was 12 and a member of the Washington Little League baseball champions. Baseball was his first love. Bob was a power hitter with homeruns a specialty. But he loved all sports and lettered in both baseball and football at our local high school in Vancouver, Washington.

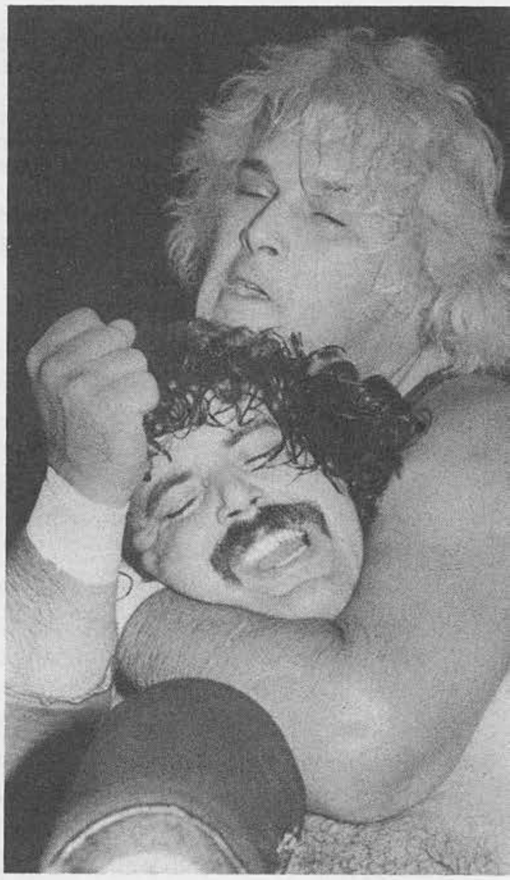
Bob's ambitions were to go into college sports, eventually pro sports, and hopefully a coaching position. But life has a way of changing plans. During Bob's senior year in high school, his mother died suddenly from a massive heart attack. After graduation, Bob joined the Army. Bob insisted on volunteering for duty in Vietnam. He spent one year in Vietnam with the First Comb as a combat infantry man.

After discharge, Bob returned to his home town, found a job at a local mill, and attempted to settle down. For a while, Bob submerged his deep love for sports. Yet a friendship with some of the local wrestlers, especially Lonnie Mayne, rekindled Bob's dormant desires. One day Bob decided to try a career in professional wrestling and took to the road to find his fame and fortune.

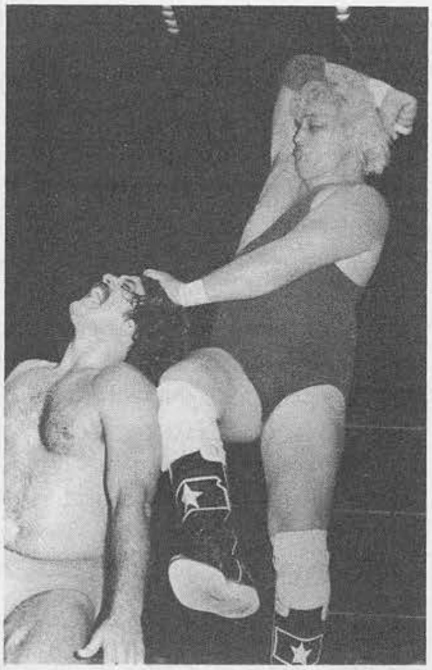
Several years passed, and although we were able to maintain contact, again life changed plans.

For years, Bobby Jaggers hadn't seen his father. He didn't know where he was, or even if he was dead or alive. Then a letter came into our office from Jaggers' Dad, asking for help in locating his son. It seemed a simple task for such an awesome result. We're glad it turned out so well





Days after being reunited with his father, Bobby Jaggers battles Jim Garvin. Above: Bobby applies a headlock. Below: Jaggers lands an elbow.

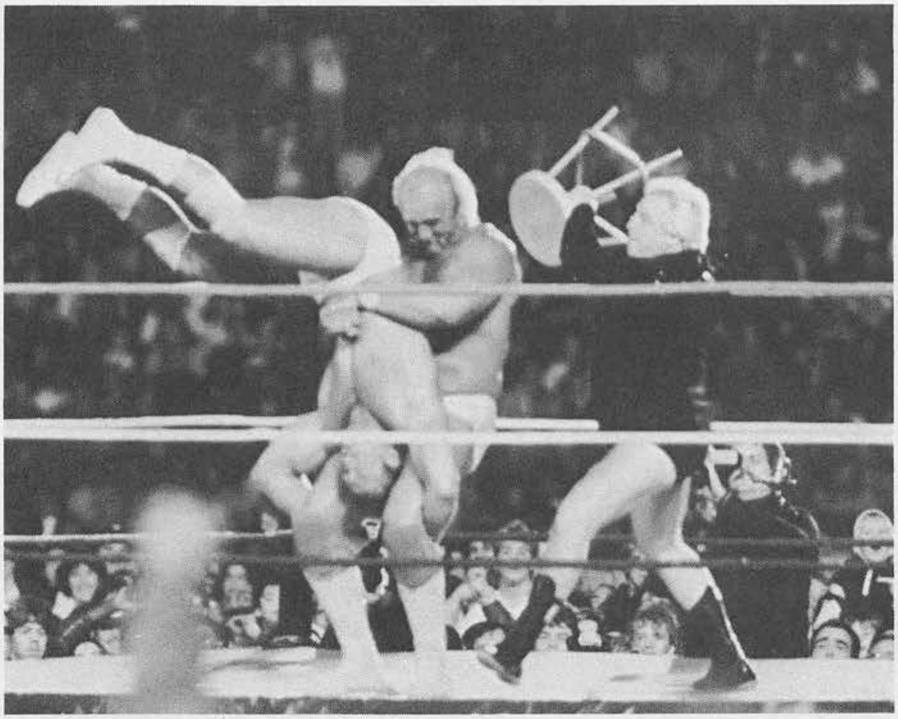


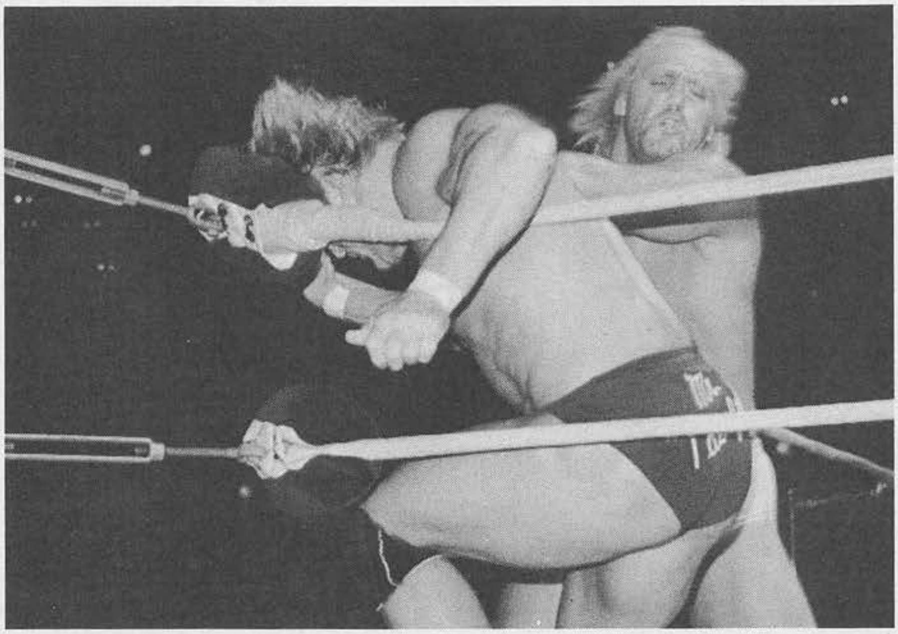
Single life wasn't for me. After eight years of loneliness. I found someone to share my life. And 31 years in the Fire Department enabled me to retire. With retirement and my new partner

(Continued on page 54)

(Continued from page 29)

Just as Orndorff is being piledrived, his manager, Bobby Heenan, interferes (right). Heenan most likely masterminded Orndorff's betrayal of the champion, who throws his foe headfirst into the turnbuckle (below right). Several prominent wrestling observers say Orndorff may become the next WWF World champion.





proving himself one of history's most durable champions.

Even Hogan's staunchest critics—those who were quick to criticize the time Hogan spent pursuing his Hollywood activities—acknowledge Hogan's biggest advantage is his ability to keep within himself, to not allow his personal affairs to distract him in the ring.

Never has this been more apparent than in this latest feud against Paul Orndorff. The conventional wisdom has it that Orndorff's latest Jekyll-and-Hyde was masterminded by Bobby Heenan. True or not, Orndorff already has proven to be Hogan's stiffest competition. Comparable in strength and more versatile, scientifically trained and, via his friendship with Hogan, privy to many of the champ's secrets, Orndorff appears an extremely good candidate to wrest the belt from Hogan.

But while their matches have been wild, sadistic affairs, Orndorff remains the challenger, Hogan the champion. One critic pointed to the recent Toronto card as proof of Hogan's dominance. "No matter how vehemently he might deny it," he said, "Orndorff was flustered. Just last month he had been accorded standing ovations. Now he was being booed by 65,000 people.

"Heenan rescued him at the end. Orndorff was too shaken up to fight. The man has three times Hogan's skills in every category, yet he couldn't handle the crowd."

Certainly time will diminish the crowd's effect on Orndorff. "But by then Hogan will have discovered a strategy to defeat him. Hogan's resiliency will win in the end. He's not pretty. He's successful. And that is what counts in this business."

It is hard to imagine Paul Orndorff so easily flustered. Here is a man cast as Atlas in a television commercial, a man resolute in his commitment to success. Yet even he is not immune from the power of the public. For over a year Orndorff was seduced by the fans' cheers, a power too often underestimated. The support, despite Orndorff's hardened image, became a pivotal part of his strategy.

As noted sports psychologist Dr. Hiram Pettijean points out, "The conscious and subconscious role the fans play in professional sports is as important as the equipment they use. In the case of Orndorff, we have a man who denies courting the fans, denies any effect they might have had on him.

"He is wrong. Just as a cheering crowd might spur a basketball player on to several extra points a night, they have a similar effect on a wrestler. Orndorff should not forget that his career really took off after he broke with Piper."

The wars continue. Both combatants enjoy obvious advantages, and although Hogan has prevailed thus far, Orndorff is never far from victory. With the managerial genius of Bobby Heenan to guide him, Orndorff could emerge with the crown on any given night. The real winners are those fans—like the record 65,000 present in Toronto—privileged to watch the two ring giants tussle. They have memories they will keep for a lifetime. □

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October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
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March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
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November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: WrestleMania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
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November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
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July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
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September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Color coverage of WMIV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
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December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.
January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.
February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.
March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnights-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.
May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.
June 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Steamboat-Flair.
July 1989/Stories include: Savage, Windham, Kerry, Demolition, Sting.

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☐ APR 80	☐ NOV 82	☐ NOV 84	☐ AUG 86	☐ MAY 88
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HOGAN-ANDRE

(Continued from page 31)

fore the third beat of Marella's hand, too late for the referee to reverse his arm's momentum. Andre thought he had won and protested the decision, but the match went on.

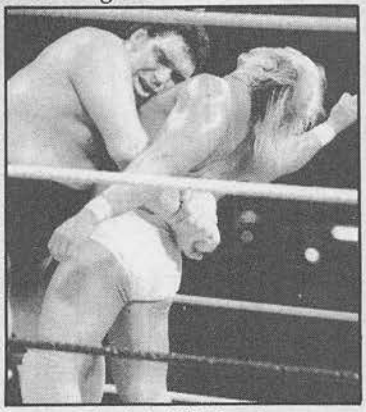
Just under 12 minutes later, after Andre had dominated almost the entire match without being able to score the killing blow, Hogan became a permanent part of wrestling history. His pin of the 7'5", 525-pound Giant after 12 minutes and one second marked the first time ever that Andre had been cleanly pinned.

The champ had erased all doubts,

HOGAN VS. ANDRE—BLOW BY BLOW

The following is a complete blow-by-blow account of the entire Hulk Hogan-Andre the Giant battle at WrestleMania III:

At the outset, Hogan and Andre engage in a staredown lasting nearly 50 seconds ... Andre shoves Hogan ... Hogan punches Andre, goes for a slam, but falls back under the Giant's weight ... Andre thinks he scored the pinfall and begins to celebrate, but Hogan's shoulder was up at the count of two ... Hogan's back was hurt by the slam attempt, however ... Andre follows up on the injury and kicks Hogan in the back ... Andre picks Hogan up and delivers three forearm shots to Hogan's back ... Andre knee-lifts Hogan in the face ... Andre picks up Hogan and delivers two bodyslams ... As Hogan is struggling to get up off the mat, Andre steps on the champion's back ... Andre pulls Hogan to his feet by the tights, whips him into the corner, grabs him again, and whips him into the opposite corner ... Andre moves in and chokes Hogan in the corner ... Andre delivers two shoulderblocks, then turns around and delivers a crushing rear end butt ... Andre headbutts Hogan, chokes him, and delivers a second headbutt ... Hogan slips under the second headbutt and crawls through Andre's legs ... Hogan scrambles to his feet and delivers two rights ... Hogan rebounds off the ropes and delivers another right ... Hogan rebounds from the ropes again and delivers an elbow to Andre's head ... Hogan delivers three chops ... Hogan smashes Andre's head into the turnbuckle 10 times in a row ... Hogan steps back to charge in, but Andre lifts his leg at the last second and delivers a boot to Hogan's jaw ... Andre chops Hogan, then clamps on a bearhug that lasts a full 2:34 ... Hogan, avoiding submission by holding his arm up on the referee's third check, begins punching away wildly at Andre's head ... Hogan punches Andre a total of 14 times, hurting his hand on the 12th punch ... Hogan rebounds off the ropes and delivers a shoulderdrive ... Hogan delivers another shoulderdrive ... On his third shoulderdrive attempt, Hogan is met by Andre's elbow ... Andre whips Hogan into the ropes and meets him with a foot to the midsection on the rebound ... Hogan falls out of the ring and Andre follows ... Andre chops Hogan ... Hogan, his back to the ringpost, moves out of the way of Andre's headbutt; Andre's head smashes into the ringpost ... Hogan pulls back the padded floor mat to piledrive Andre on the bare floor ... Andre counters the piledriver by backdropping Hogan to the floor ... Andre throws Hogan back into the ring ... Andre whips Hogan into the ropes, but misses with his foot when Hogan ducks under on the rebound ... Hogan bounces off the ropes and clotheslines Andre ... Both men are down ... Hogan, up first, scoops Andre up and bodyslams him ... Andre is stunned, and Hogan follows up with a legdrop ... Referee Joe Marella scores Hogan's clean pinfall victory at the 12:01 mark.



Andre's 2:34 bearhug

Andre slams Hogan. Surprisingly, the Giant would be on the receiving end of a slam later in the match.

doubts that had built up over the seven years since his last meeting with Andre. Remember when Andre came out to "congratulate" Hogan after Hulk received a trophy for his three years as WWF World champion? Andre said, "Three years is a long time." Well, seven years is an even longer time.

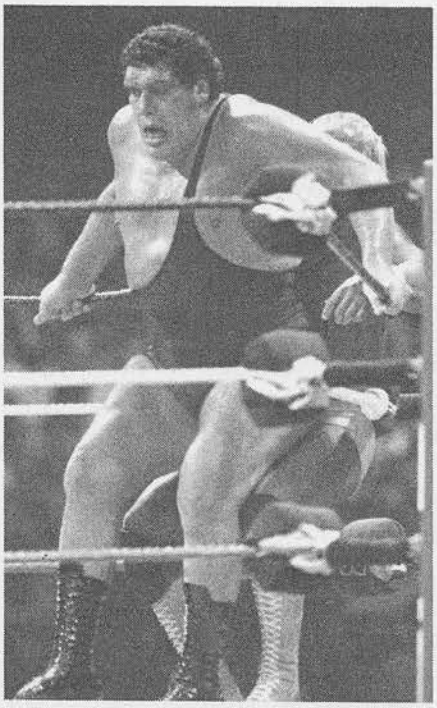
Andre was a hero back then, and he was still on top of his game. He had never received a WWF title shot but didn't seem to care. Andre basked in the love of the fans, his personal love of the sport, and his growing legend. Hogan, a 6'8" muscleman, was under the management of Freddie Blassie and had yet to achieve worldwide fame for his part in *Rocky III.*

Look at what's happened since then: Hogan moved on to the AWA for a spell before returning to the WWF as a fan favorite. In 1984, he won the World championship by defeating The Iron Sheik and proved his mettle against all competition in the WWF. Hogan established himself

as the biggest (and richest) star in the sport and became the man who the WWF built itself around.

Andre continued on undefeated, but now took second billing to Hogan. As the years went by, Andre put on weight and wrestled less and less in singles matches. His ability deteriorated, but not enough to prevent people from wondering what would happen if Andre fought Hogan. And certainly, the one blemish on Hogan's record was that he had never defeated Andre the Giant. But they were best friends, and everyone assumed it would never happen.

Seven years *is* a long time. In 1987, Andre is a hated man, managed by the notorious Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, and Hogan is the ultimate fan favorite. But, just like in 1980, their much-anticipated confrontation took place in a gigantic stadium and shook the entire wrestling world.



Andre uses his 525-pound frame to smash Hogan into the turnbuckle. Andre actually had the advantage for most of the bout.

An incredible 93,173 fans packed the Silverdome for WrestleMania III, the largest indoor crowd in North America for *any* event, resulting in a paid gate of almost $1.6 million. Another 450,000 people watched on closed-circuit television (as of press time, figures still weren't in on pay-per-view). The undercard, which included Rick Steamboat defeating Randy Savage for the Intercontinental title, was one of the greatest in the long and storied history of the WWF. Everyone in attendance waited three hours, however, for the main event, the most anticipated wrestling battle of all time.

To his credit, Andre composed himself following the failed pin attempt and continued his attack. The years of frustration over never getting a title shot seemed to be pouring out of Andre in the form of increased energy. Each time Hogan tried to reverse the momentum, Andre regained the upper hand. The Giant was able to clamp on a bearhug and hold it for two minutes and 34 seconds.

Finally, Hogan fell out of the ring and Andre followed him. Andre tried to hit Hogan with a headbutt, but the champion moved out of the way and Andre hit his head on the ringpost. Hogan then pulled away the mat covering the floor and tried to piledrive Andre on the plywood floor. But Andre backdropped Hogan to the floor and threw him into the ring.

By this time, however, Andre was spent. He had done everything he could to weaken Hogan but couldn't go in for the pin. Was it age? Was it weight? Or was it an inner respect for the champion? Probably, it was a combination of all three. The beginning of the end for Andre came when he tossed Hogan into the ropes but missed with a foot. Hogan clotheslined Andre, and then, in perhaps the most memorable moment of WrestleMania III, executed the bodyslam. One legdrop later, it was all over.

Will these two superstars ever meet again? That remains to be seen. As of press time, there was no word on a return match. But afterward, as a victorious Hogan celebrated in the ring and the cheers of the fans rained down, Andre had only this to say as he and a dejected Bobby Heenan were driven to the dressing room in the mobile mini-ring:

"I'll be back." □

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RANDY SAVAGE

(Continued from page 33)

Orndorff uses his arms and legs to ward of an attacking Savage. While possessing enormous scientific skills, Savage is not beyond using any means to win a match.

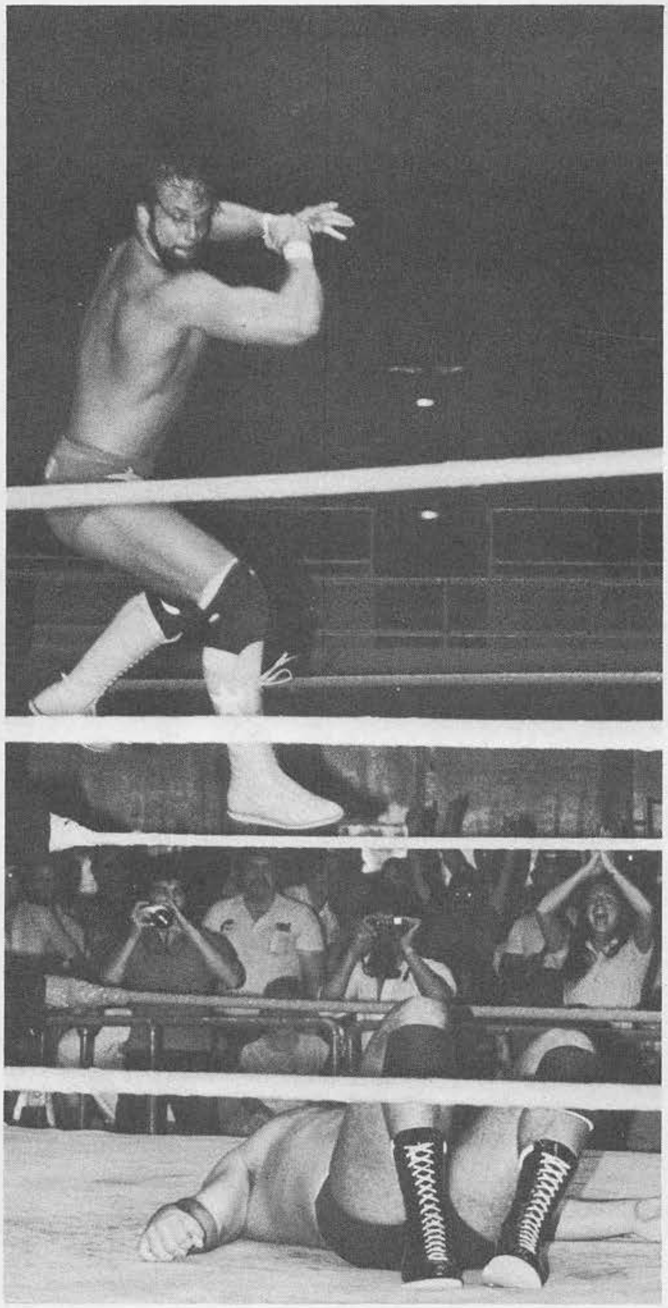
the dressing room, they were plied with more catcalls.

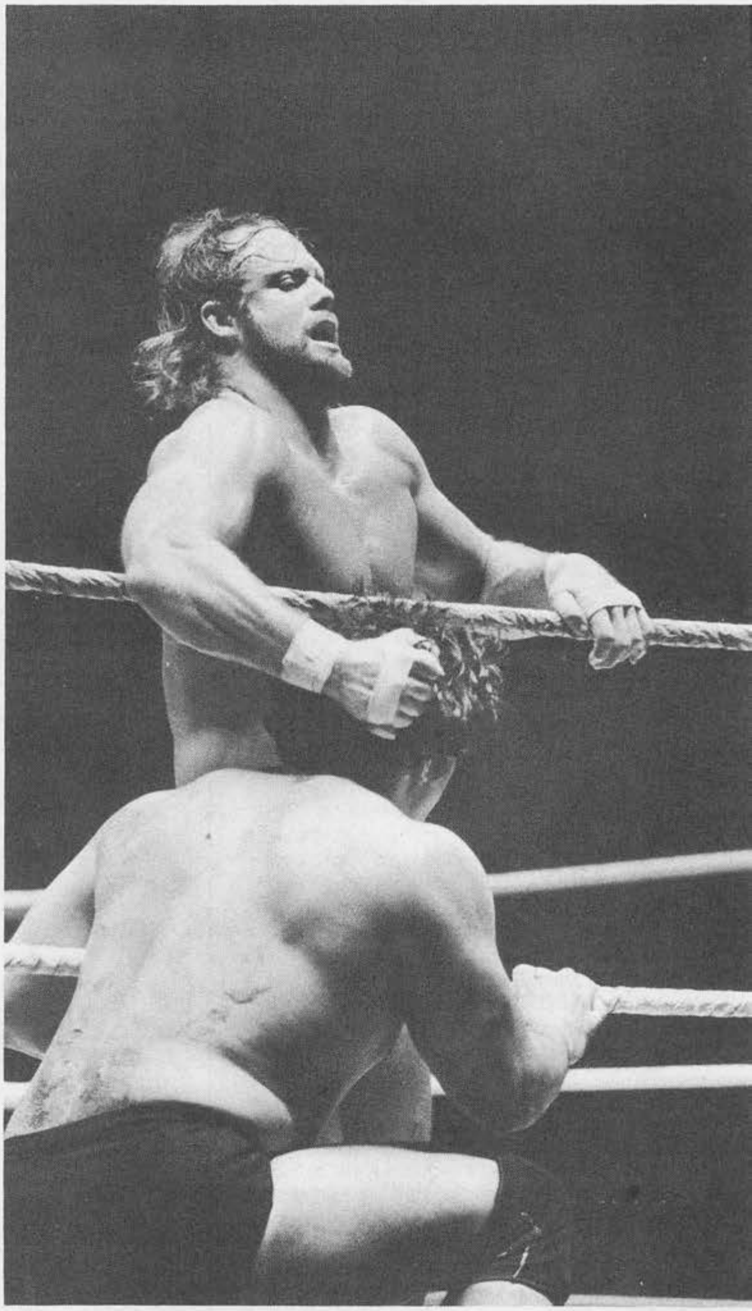
"Hey, Savage, if you're so Macho, how come Lizzy can't keep her eyes off of Hogan's belt?"

"Yo, Randy, my uncle owns a clothing store. He can get you belts real cheap. Then you can tie Elizabeth up so she won't run away with Hogan." The fan paused for a moment. "Of course, they're all imitation leather, which would be perfect for you since you're an imitation wrestler."

This drew a measured response from Savage. He made a threatening move toward the fans and they fled like pigeons. His heart wasn't in the gesture though. His menacing countenance and intimidating scowl lacked its usual brutal enthusiasm. Elizabeth gave his head a reassuring pat as they ducked into the darkness.

It's no secret that Miss Elizabeth is one of wrestling's most brilliant financial managers. Bruno Sammartino has called her an "extremely tough negotiator who is smart enough to let a wrestler handle the tactical end while





The Macho Man uses the ropes better than any man in the WWF, including Rick Steamboat and The British Bulldogs. Scott McGhee, the recipient of this elbowsmash (above left) will attest to that observation. Savage uses matches against mediocre wrestlers like Jose Luis Rivera (above right) as a means of attaining psychological advantages over more meaningful opposition.

she makes him rich." Elizabeth could have chosen any of a number of wrestlers to manage. After a meticulous, computer-assisted analysis of all the candidates, she decided to cast her lot with Randy Savage.

Despite his chauvanistic bent, she felt that her guiding genius and his natural abilities would not only sew up a fat contract in the money-laden WWF, but together they would have no problem defeating the WWF's one-dimensional champion, Hulk Hogan.

Elizabeth, groomed and educated in the finest prep schools and universities in the country, had prepared her entire life for just this moment. Combining disarming beauty with a razor-sharp intelligence, she had already envisioned the gold-speckled belt sitting smartly around Savage's waist.

Savage had been wrestling at the top of his game. But so far, in several meetings against Hogan, he has failed to negotiate a victory, and the rumors are rampant that Elizabeth is trying to end their association.

"She wants to bail out before she loses face," claims one source very close to both her and Savage, who requested anonymity for obvious reasons. "She's learned never to put all her eggs in one basket. She desperately wants the title and her feeling is that Savage can't get it for her.

"The problem is that Randy has become very attached to Elizabeth. He gets insanely jealous whenever anyone even looks at her. So the situation for him is very desperate. Either win the title or lose Elizabeth. To be frank, the guy is freaking out." □

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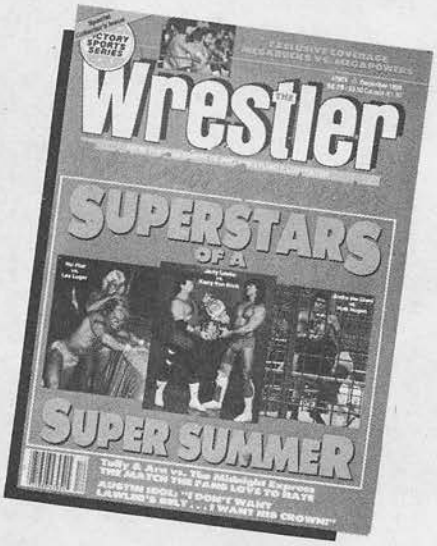

The December 1988 edition of *The Wrestler* was a collectors' dream! It included a dynamic eight-page FULL-COLOR section featuring "The Superstars Of A Super Summer" competing in some of 1988's greatest cards and matches! Included in this exciting full-color section: Hulk Hogan, Sting, Randy Savage, Lex Luger, Rick Rude, The Ultimate Warrior, Jerry Lawler, Ric Flair, Hacksaw Duggan, The Fantastics, Dusty Rhodes, Ted DiBiase, Barry Windham, The Honky Tonk Man, and Nikita Koloff! Also included in this magnificent special issue is a full analysis of the summer's top action, plus all the regular *Wrestler* stories and features. This issue was a newsstand sellout, but we have a limited number of back issues available for the collectors' bargain price of only $5.00 each. Don't be disappointed—order yours today!

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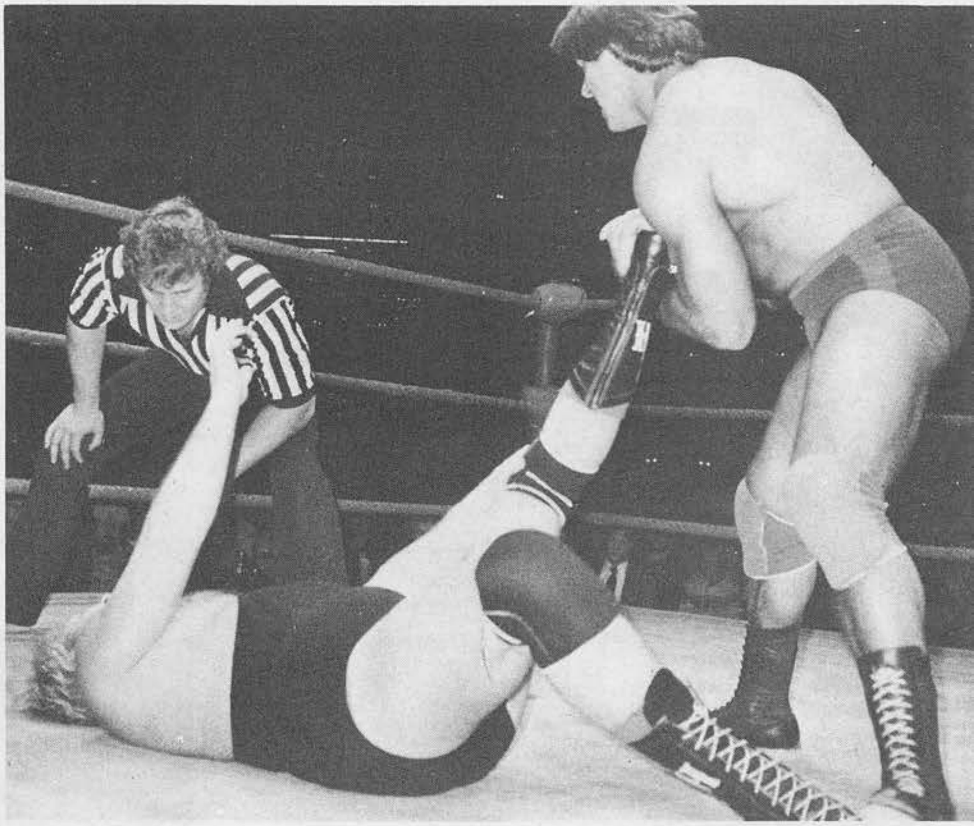
MARTEL VS. HEENAN

(Continued from page 41)

plained. "If Bobby wants to get in there and wrestle, fine with me. It gives me a chance to pay him back for all of the mind games and the outside interference. But if he runs out of that ring, I get Bockwinkel, and Heenan gets the lock and key in the dressing room. I hope he does run. I know I can beat Bockwinkel one on one.

The Wrestler obtained a copy of the contract and presented it to corporate legal counsel Amanda Warren. Upon reading the contract, she commented on its quality. "This is a very accurately drawn contract. There is no room for variance of interpretation. There is, in my opinion, no way for Mr. Heenan to sidestep any of the stipulations in the contract.



Referee Curt Hennig keeps an eye on Heenan's shoulders as Martel twists Bobby's already pained left leg. Though Heenan was outsmarted at contract time, he used his evil genius to escape the match relatively unscathed.

"I have to admit, though, that this wasn't my idea," he continued. "I was out having dinner one night, and this guy comes over to the table. I figured he was a fan wanting an autograph. Anyhow, the guy tells me he's an attorney and he has an idea. I heard the words 'revenge' and 'Heenan' and my eyes lit up. I told him to sit down, and we hashed out some preliminary details. I have to hand it to him. I'd thank him publicly, but he asked me not to. He doesn't want his involvement recognized."

"Contract law is quite a complicated field. I'm sure Mr. Heenan, being the manager of a world champion, has some knowledge of contract law. We must not forget, however, that he is a layman. If, in fact, he did not want to enter into this type of agreement, he showed a definite degree of ignorance, or he neglected to read the contract itself."

***

Martel strode confidently toward the ring, acknowledging the fan re-

sponse with smiles, waves, and handshakes for those on the aisle. Once inside the ring, he continued to wave to the fans. Coming out of the dressing room, Heenan tried to sneak-attack the preoccupied Martel, but the reaction of the fans alerted Rick to his presence.

Martel caught a glimpse of his guileless opponent out of the corner of his eye but waited for Heenan to get up on the ring apron before making a move. Without looking back, Martel sensed where Heenan would be. He reached back and flipped him over the top rope and onto his back.

As the bell rang to signal the official start of the match, Martel resumed his advantage with a series of armdrag takedowns. After the fifth armdrag, Heenan rolled under the bottom rope, and remained there while Hennig made his count. "Stay there," Martel screamed. "I'll take Nicky. Just stay right there." Heenan rolled back into the ring. The contract was working just as Martel had hoped.

But Heenan proved his genius even in the role of the coward. He stayed in the ring only long enough for Hennig to start his count, and then rolled out to take another nine-count. He continued to utilize this strategy, infuriating Hennig, Martel, and the vocal fans.

Martel grew angrier as the time limit drew near. Finally, with about 1:30 remaining, he shoved Hennig aside and grabbed Heenan off the mat. The frustration escaped through Martel's fists, which pounded into Heenan's face repeatedly.

Martel was so intent on inflicting punishment, he lost track of the time. As the bell sounded indicating that the time limit had been reached, Martel continued to throw bombs to Heenan's midsection. The battered Heenan slumped to the ground and rolled under the ropes. Only this time, he wouldn't have to come back in nine seconds or nine hours. □

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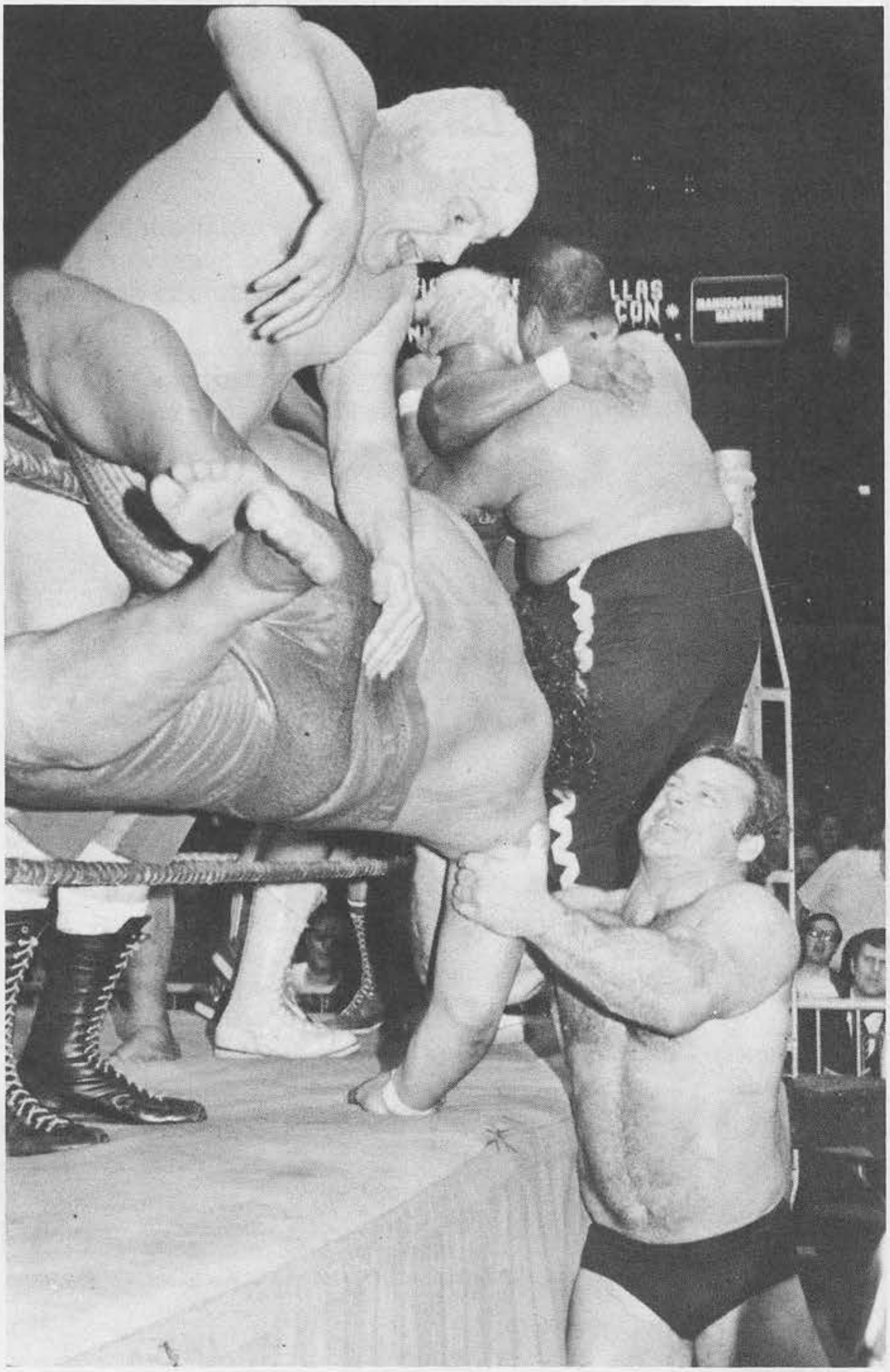
LARRY ZBYSZKO

(Continued from page 21)



Already eliminated, Putski helps Pat Patterson dump Peter Maivia out of the ring (left). Zbyszko joins the action to help Bob Duncum, Patterson, and DeNucci dispose of Gorilla Monsoon (above). Zbyszko's dropkick sends his last two opponents, DeNucci and Duncum, out of the ring (below).

Royal. His method disturbed a great many people and raised profound moral questions for all wrestling.

Zbyszko's victory shocked many persons in and out of wrestling. Briefly, Zbyszko won by carefully selecting his attacks, sneaking in, punching, swinging, then leaving the ring.

Three men survived the brutal elimination process: Dominic DeNucci, Bobby Duncum, and Zbyszko.

"I wasn't surprised about my competition," said Zbyszko.

Zbyszko and Duncum double-teamed DeNucci. Valiantly, Dominic beat them back, aided by Zbyszko's wary retreat.

"Why should I get my face crushed for nothing?" asked Zbyszko.

With only one foe to concentrate upon, DeNucci pushed Duncum partly over the ropes. Duncum struggled and a brief stand-off developed. Enter Zbyszko.

"This was the opening I'd waited for," recalled Zbyszko, grinning.

A Zbyszko flying dropkick landed onto DeNucci's back, knocking both Dominic and Duncum over the top rope and giving Zbyszko the victory, a check for $15,000 and a title shot against WWF champion Bob Backlund.

"I had this planned from the beginning," said Zbyszko. "I knew how to approach this Battle Royal. Why should I tire myself out? I'm too good for that. I stay on the apron and I chose the fight, not allow anyone else to decide for me.

"A man must be the master of his own destiny. I wouldn't allow a stupid pig like Ivan Putski to fight me. I'll fight him. When I'm good and ready. But I won, didn't I? Think I care who calls me what name? Doesn't matter to me. I'm through worrying about people's comments. I know who I am and what I must accomplish. Let them call me coward or immoral. I'm 15 grand richer and I'm gonna whip Backlund's butt for the WWF title. Then they could put aside all their names and focus on just one: me!"

Success. Victory. Championships. Top of the heap, number one ladder on the rung. No matter the methods, results matter? Or do they?

Wrestlers must remember their ultimate responsibility is to the public. Regardless of the wrestling style, *every* wrestler represents an important role model to one impressionable youngster.

Perhaps Larry Zbyszko should consider the persuasive effect his single-minded, selfish attitude has upon his fans. What if one child decides to by-pass rules simply to succeed? Is that what Larry Zbyszko wants? Is that what wrestling should be, a means to radically alter young minds and propel them toward duplicating the ruthless tactics of their heroes?

No, Zbyszko doesn't care. All that counts for him is triumph, the justification for years of embitterment and frustration. He's gone far beyond caring how he affects the young wrestling fans. Only Larry Zbyszko counts.

Until one day in his old age, Larry Zbyszko fights off a mugger and screams for help. And the young fan, now successful and well-dressed, walks by, late for an important business meeting. ☐

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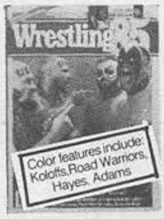

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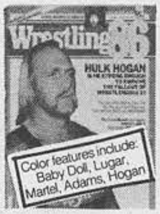

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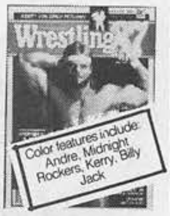

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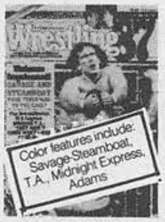

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THE JAGGERS FAMILY

(Continued from page 43)

came a new life.

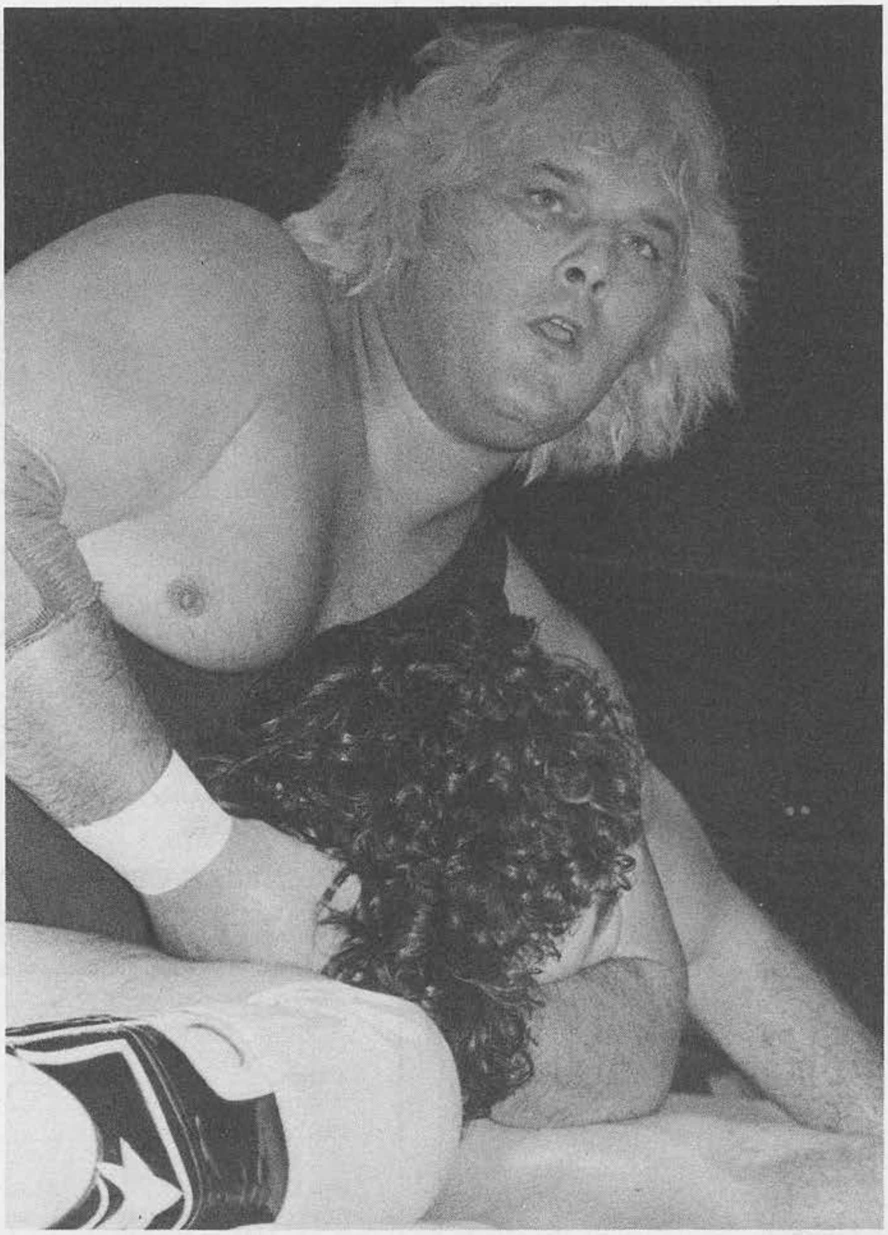
I sold the old home and moved to a one-acre lot on the banks of one of my favorite fishing streams. Unfortunately, in all the hectic shuffling, Bob and I lost contact. Try as I might, I couldn't locate him.

My only clue was his profession—a pro wrestler.

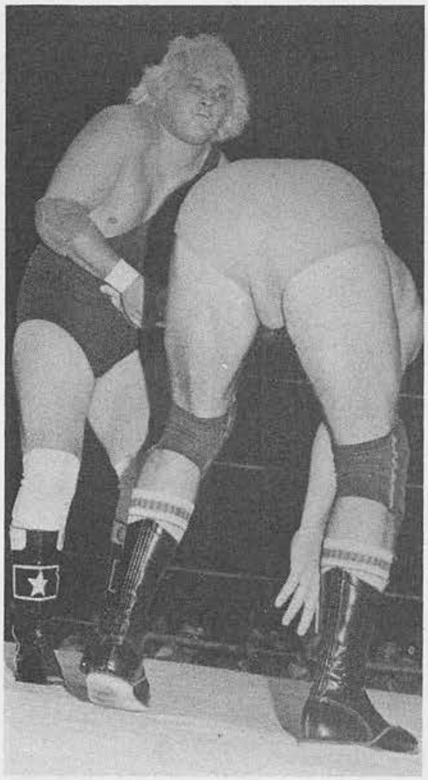
I pressed my search in this direction. At the Portland Arena I found a local fan sincere in the belief Bob was wrestling somewhere in Montana. However, a number of phone calls reached a dead end.

I was desperate. I really didn't know what to do. I turned to Bill Apter, managing editor of ***The Wrestler****, for help. I wrote Mr. Apter and explained my predicament. A week later, a letter arrived. Just a line, a name, and a number.*

My call to that number reunited



Bobby looks to ringside as he receives encouragement from his number one supporter, his father. Almost everyone has noticed that Bobby's intensity has increased since the reunion.



Garvin doubles over in pain as Jaggers twists his left wrist. Although Jaggers is not a fan favorite, this story is a touching one for any caring human being.

*my son and me. My thanks go out to all the editors of **The Wrestler** magazine. This would have been an impossible task without their help."*

Every once in a while you do something that makes you feel very good. When I received Mr. Jeaudion's request, I immediately got hold of the proper people and forwarded the information. As wrestling people always do, they responded quickly and with compassion.

I don't want to receive any credit for this. I didn't do this to have people say what a nice guy I am. I didn't even want to receive publicity about this affair, but both Jaggers and his Dad insisted.

Sometimes you forget that there are people involved in wrestling. Sometimes the senseless savagery and relentless treachery numbs you to the kinder, decent people who comprise the majority of the sport.

I'm glad I was able to bring together two people. I'm very glad. □

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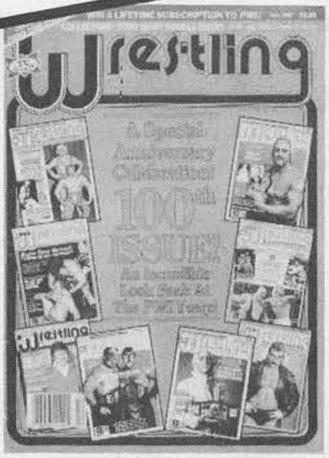

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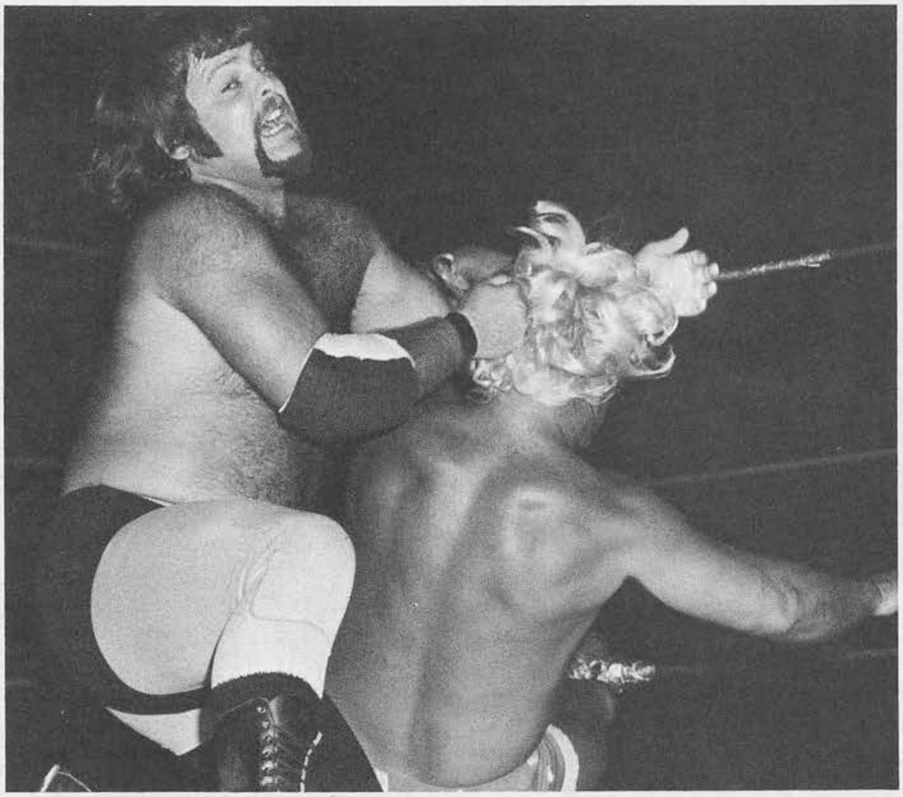
JERRY LAWLER

(Continued from page 16)



A takedown, by the hair, executed perfectly by Lawler. It was completely out of the view of the referee. Jerry vows to draw blood from all his opponents until he gets another shot at the NWA championship.

The night of the match, both men were prepared for a brawl. They knew the rules would be ignored whenever possible. The referee would be helpless to stop them—or save them. The chances of one of them being dragged off on a stretcher were too good to even consider.

From the first clanging of the bell, Lawler was on the warpath. Fans were stunned into a momentary silence by the awesome exhibition of wrestling savagery. George could only defend himself against the onslaught. It would be fatal to mount an attack of his own during the furious whirlwind.

After the shock of the first few moments, fans realized George was surviving very well under the pressure. He was warding off most of the dangerous maneuvers and absorbing a minimum of pain. It looked like George would escape serious injury.

Then all hell broke loose. The action spilled over the ropes but neither man stopped brawling. This was the advantage George wanted. Now he was even and started to inflict his own punishment.

Both men were raging when they climbed back into the ring. It was a furious whirlwind of action, both men battered and Gorgeous George Jr. bleeding. Then came the horrible end.

The referee pulled George off Lawler during a particularly dirty move by George. Lawler leaped toward the edge of the ring and grabbed a belt he had planted there. While George was still in the clutches of the referee, Lawler started whipping him with the belt. Welts rose on George's body as leather slashed against flesh. Even though the referee quickly released George, it was too late. The whipping had taken its toll.

George lay helpless on the canvas when the referee finally pulled Lawler off his victim. Jerry was disqualified but delighted at his accomplishment—the torture of Georgeous George Jr. The blond wrestler lay on the canvas, a barely conscious winner.

"He's only the first!" Lawler screamed as he left. "He's only the first of many!" □

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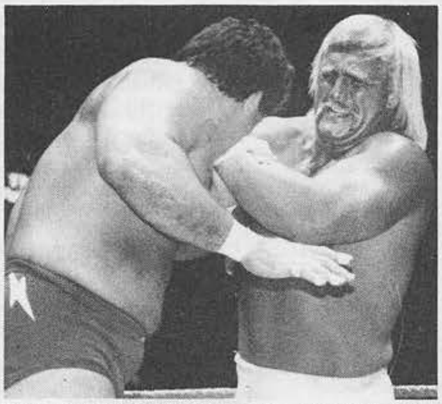
WORN-OUT HOGAN

(Continued from page 27)



Even applying a simple armbar seems to drain Hogan on this night. Will a few weeks off help The Hulkster to return to his championship form?

match, Hogan appeared to be everywhere. You could scarcely turn on your television without mention of "WrestleMania" followed by his famous towheaded visage. On radio it was the Hulk's staccato voice preaching WrestleMania on what seemed to be every show. In the papers and magazines, nary a day went by without a new Hogan layout, each one featuring a new celebrity, each day emphasizing a different angle.

WrestleMania came and went, but Hogan remained in the spotlight. Wrestling three times a week. Introducing his new cartoon show. Speaking at another men's club. Appearing on another talk show. Was this man human? Of course not! No human being could survive at his clip.

But then, just as the media were ready to consign unto Hogan full membership rights to the Clark Kent Club of Accomplishment, he bared his flesh and blood and showed us all that he is, in the end, very human.

In his first match at Madison Square Garden after WrestleMania, Hogan was badly outwrestled by Magnificent Muraco and was counted out of the ring. Hulk Hogan lost and, by all accounts, was fortunate to hang on to his title.

If Hogan at full speed is several paces ahead of the rest of the pack,

Hogan's kick to the midsection, normally a brutally effective maneuver, seemed to lack its usual force against Muraco (above). Muraco sets a tiring Hogan up for a piledriver (below). This was the toughest night of Hogan's WWF title reign.

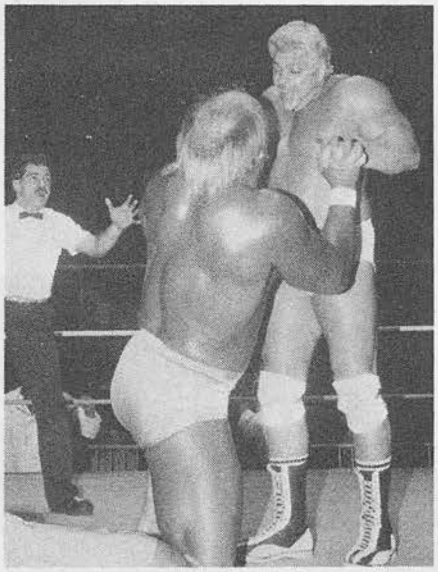
then it makes sense to assume that a Hulk Hogan burnout would be a disaster. Yet it would also seem that his schedule makes such a burnout not only possible, but inevitable.

As veteran ring hawk Matt Brock plainly stated, "Some actors and celebrities thrive in the limelight and actually gain sustenance from it. Hogan must remember, though, that he is not just a celebrity. He is an athlete. If he wishes to retire from the ring then that's fine. Let him be on TV all day long. But as a wrestler, he's dying a fast death. He needs a rest. He needs to relax. Even if it was just for a week. With his recuperative powers, that's all he'd need. But he'd better do it soon. There are plenty of wrestlers out there better than Magnificent Muraco."

Hulk Hogan: athlete in search of an off-season. His legions of fans had better pray he finds one soon. ☐

DANGERS

(Continued from page 35)



Canadian powerhouse Dino Bravo wins a test of strength with the champion.

Dino Bravo: This Canadian strongman has proven to be a man that Hogan cannot beat conclusively. During one January match in Canada, Bravo locked Hogan in a crushing bearhug for several minutes, and Hogan had to be carried from the ring on a stretcher. Could the next time they meet be Hogan's *final* downfall? Jimmy Hart, Bravo's new manager, would love to see it happen.

THE SLEEPERS

Curt Hennig: This second-generation star has spent most of the past year in the WWF, and he's been undefeated the whole time—but he has yet to be granted a single title shot. Could the fact that ther former AWA World champion has been overlooked unleash rage within the competitive heart of this premier athlete? Hogan rarely faces an opponent as well-rounded in scientific wrestling as Hennig is, and it's entirely possible that Hennig could defeat Hogan by *outwrestling* him.

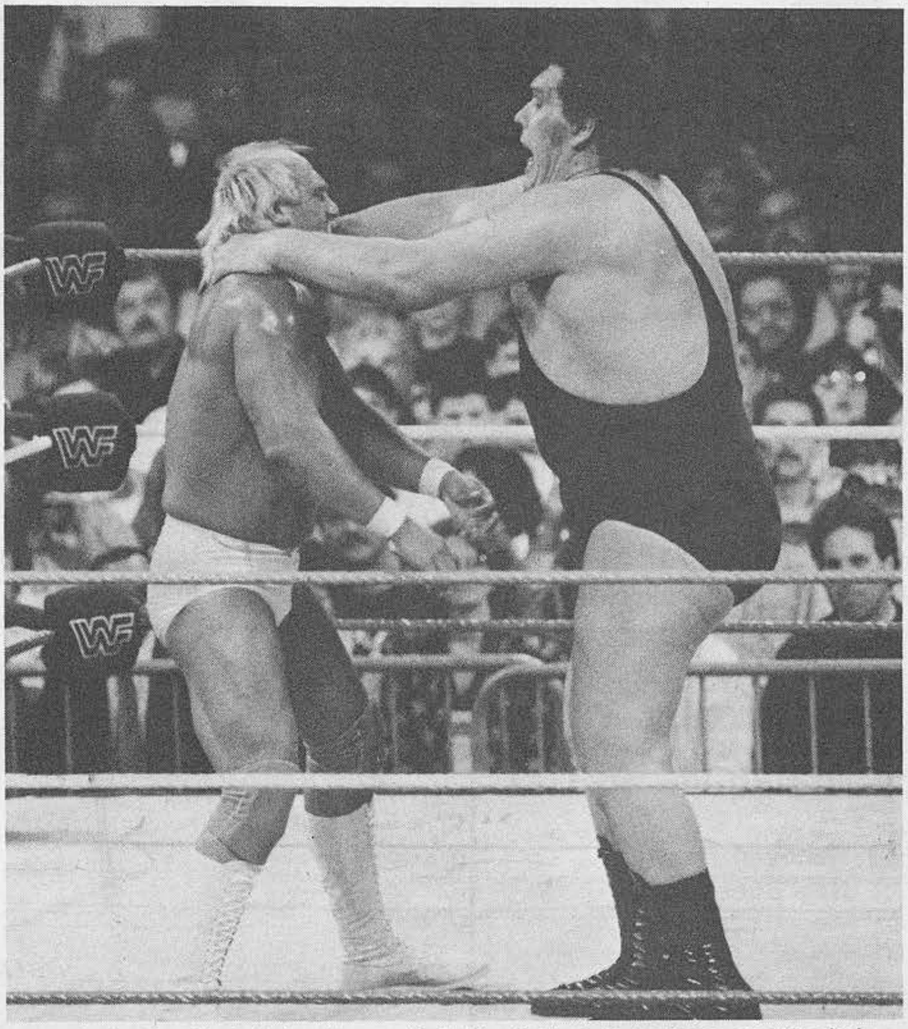
The Ultimate Warrior: Many experts consider the Warrior to be the most awesome fighting force in the WWF today. Imagine if this 275-pound megastar challenged Hulk Hogan! Both possess equal amounts of stamina, strength, and fighting heart. All it would take for this match to become a reality is for the Warrior to regain his rulebreaking attitude. World championships have driven lesser men to such measures before.

Dusty Rhodes: Could part of Rhodes' "American Dream" include the WWF World title? Rhodes has never been a man to back down from anything he's ever wanted, and as a former NWA World titleholder, a natural desire would be the WWF belt. Rhodes is much older and has slowed considerably in recent years, but he's proven that he's one man who has beaten insurmountable odds throughout his career. What could be more challenging than the task of trying to defeat Hogan?

Andre the Giant: Many assume that Andre has falled out of title contention, but the man who defeated Hogan for his title is always a threat. Andre's been feuding with Jake Roberts, Hacksaw Duggan, and John Studd in recent months, but he has yet to suffer a pinfall loss to any of these men. If he continues to win, Andre could return to the top contender's spot and rekindle one of the greatest feuds in wrestling history.

With a wealth of talent like this waiting to face Hogan—and with Ted DiBiase, Greg Valentine, and Akeem also lusting for title shots—it's obvious that Hogan has his work cut out for him. During his first title reign, Hogan established himself as the most popular champion of all time.

If he defeats all of these contenders, he may well establish himself as the greatest. □



Andre the Giant chokes Hogan. Their WrestleMania III bout was an epic clash.

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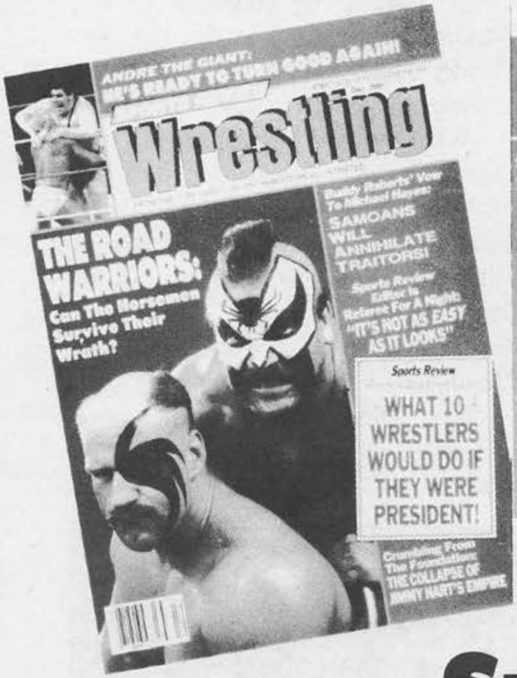

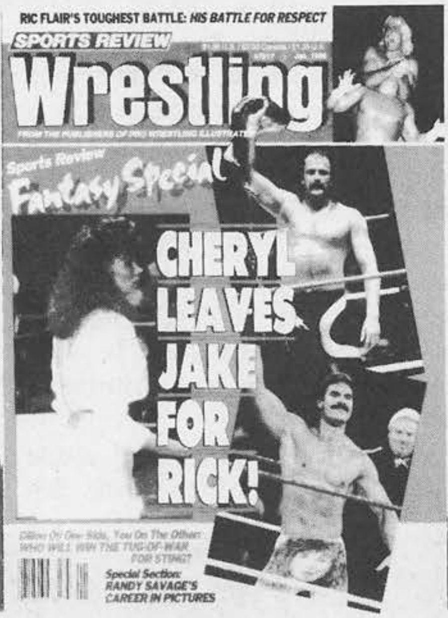

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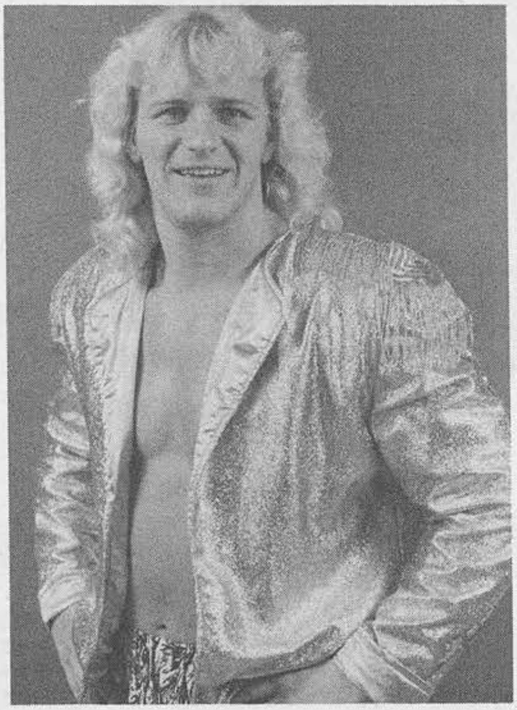
Wrestler ANNUAL



Jeff Jarrett

TOP 10

1 **HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
WWF World champion

2 **LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
U.S. heavyweight champion

3 **RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
No. 2 contender: NWA title

4 **RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
No. 2 contender: WWF title

5 **STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
NWA TV champion

6 **RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
WWF Intercontinental champion

7 **LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
AWA World champion

8 **JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
World Class champion

9 **JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
CWA champion

10 **LARRY CAMERON**
280, Chicago, IL
Stampede North American champion

TAG TEAMS

1 **DEMOLITION**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
WWF World tag team champions

2 **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
see "Ratings Analysis"

3 **THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
Combined weight: 510 pounds
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title

4 **AKEEM & BIG BOSSMAN**
Combined weight: 816 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title

5 **MICHAEL HAYES & TERRY GORDY**
Combined weight: 544 pounds
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title

6 **THE BUSHWHACKERS**
Combined weight: 542 pounds
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title

7 **TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
Combined weight: 484 pounds
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title

8 **SHAUN & STEVE SIMPSON**
Combined weight: 430 pounds
World Class Texas tag team champions

9 **DUSTIN RHODES & MIKE GRAHAM**
Combined weight: 486 pounds
PWF tag team champions

10 **RICK STEINER & EDDIE GILBERT**
Combined weight: 470 pounds
U.S. tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**LEX LUGER** *268, Chicago, IL*
2—**RICK STEAMBOAT** *238, Honolulu, HI*
3—**STING** *260, Venice Beach, CA*
4—**TERRY FUNK** *247, Amarillo, TX*
5—**MICHAEL HAYES** *255, Marietta, GA*
6—**THE GREAT MUTA** *245, Tokyo, Japan*
7—**STEVE WILLIAMS** *265, Norman, OK*
8—**MIKE ROTUNDO** *245, Syracuse, NY*
9—**SCOTT HALL** *290, Minneapolis, MN*
10—**BRIAN PILLMAN** *226, Cincinnati, OH*

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

1—**RICK RUDE** *246, Robbinsdale, MN*
2—**RANDY SAVAGE** *245, Sarasota, FL*
3—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE** *273, San Francisco, CA*
4—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** *280, Queens, NY*
5—**HACKSAW DUGGAN** *280, Glens Falls, NY*
6—**DINO BRAVO** *256, Montreal, Quebec*
7—**CURT HENNIG** *235, Minneapolis, MN*
8—**JIMMY SNUKA** *250, Fiji Islands*
9—**TERRY TAYLOR** *225, Vero Beach, FL*
10—**DUSTY RHODES** *302, Austin, TX*

AWA

World Champion:
LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA

1—**GREG GAGNE** *220, Robbinsdale, MN*
2—**KEN PATERA** *256, Portland, OR*
3—**AKIO SATO** *234, Tokyo, Japan*
4—**DERRICK DUKES** *235, Boston, MA*
5—**TOM ZENK** *237, Minneapolis, MN*
6—**COL. DeBEERS** *248, Cape Town, South Africa*
7—**MIKE GRAHAM** *232, Tampa, FL*
8—**SGT. SLAUGHTER** *310, Parris Island, SC*
9—**STEVE KEIRN** *235, Tampa, FL*
10—**TOMMY JAMMER** *265, St. Joseph, MO*

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1—**ERIC EMBRY** *225, Lexington, KY*
2—**AL PEREZ** *238, Tampa, FL*
3—**KERRY VON ERICH** *260, Denton, TX*
4—**MATT BORNE** *235, Portland, OR*
5—**JEFF JARRETT** *200, Hendersonville, TN*
6—**BRICKHOUSE BROWN** *225, Winter Haven, FL*
7—**CACTUS JACK** *247, Truth or Consequences, NM*
8—**JIMMY JACK FUNK** *243, Portland, OR*
9—**ICEMAN PARSONS** *245, St. Louis, MO*
10—**CHRIS ADAMS** *228, Stratford, England*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

1. **HULK HOGAN** — *302, Venice Beach, CA* — **Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular**
2. **STING** — *260, Venice Beach, CA* — **Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular**
3. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** — *280, Queens, NY* — **Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular**
4. **RICK STEAMBOAT** — *238, Honolulu, HI* — **Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular**
5. **BRUTUS BEEFCAKE** — *273, San Francisco, CA* — **Last issue: unrated**
6. **HACKSAW DUGGAN** — *280, Glens Falls, NY* — **Last issue: unrated**
7. **DUSTY RHODES** — *302, Austin, TX* — **Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular**
8. **ERIC EMBRY** — *225, Lexington, KY* — **Last issue: unrated**
9. **JEFF JARRETT** — *200, Hendersonville, TN* — **Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular**
10. **RICK STEINER** — *248, Detroit, MI* — **Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular**

MOST HATED

1. **RANDY SAVAGE** — *245, Sarasota, FL* — **Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated**
2. **TERRY FUNK** — *247, Amarillo, TX* — **Last issue: unrated**
3. **MICHAEL HAYES** — *255, Marietta, GA* — **Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular**
4. **RICK RUDE** — *246, Robbinsdale, MN* — **Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated**
5. **THE GREAT MUTA** — *245, Tokyo, Japan* — **Last issue: unrated**
6. **RICK MARTEL** — *236, Quebec City, Quebec* — **Last issue: unrated**
7. **LARRY ZBYSZKO** — *248, Pittsburgh, PA* — **Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated**
8. **TED DiBIASE** — *247, Omaha, NB* — **Last issue: unrated**
9. **DYNAMITE KID** — *228, Manchester, England* — **Last issue: unrated**
10. **JERRY LAWLER** — *234, Memphis, TN* — **Last issue: unrated**

For period ended June 9, 1989

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past five issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past five issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 50 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past three months, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RANDY SAVAGE .... 46 points
2—RIC FLAIR .... 36 points
3—LEX LUGER .... 34 points
4—JERRY LAWLER .... 28 points
5—HULK HOGAN .... 22 points

TAG TEAMS

1—DEMOLITION .... 46 points
2—THE ROAD WARRIORS .... 45 points
3—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ... 27 points
4—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE .... 26 points
5—POWERS OF PAIN/TANAKA & DIAMOND . 23 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
LARRY CAMERON
280, Chicago

1—**CHRIS BENOIT** *218, Edmonton, Alberta*
2—**DAVEY BOY SMITH** *245, Leeds, England*
3—**DYNAMITE KID** *228, Manchester, England*
4—**JOHNNY SMITH** *235, Manchester, England*
5—**RICKY RICE** *230, Edina, MN*
6—**ANGEL OF DEATH** *310, Los Angeles, CA*
7—**BRUCE HART** *211, Calgary, Alberta*
8—**BEEF WELLINGTON** *225, Lloydmaster, Alberta*
9—**KERRY BROWN** *295, Kansas City, MO*
10—**DUKE MYERS** *320, Portland, OR*

CWA

CWA Champion:
JEFF JARRETT
200, Hendersonville, TN

1—**JERRY LAWLER** *234, Memphis, TN*
2—**DUTCH MANTEL** *224, Oil Trough, TX*
3—**AUSTIN IDOL** *240, Las Vegas, NV*
4—**ROBERT FULLER** *257, Dyresburg, TN*
5—**THE MASTER OF PAIN** *320, parts unknown*
6—**PERRY JACKSON** *280, Ft. Bragg, NC*
7—**TONY ANTHONY** *235, Bucksnorth, TN*
8—**BILLY TRAVIS** *218, Houston, TX*
9—**PHIL HICKERSON** *208, Memphis, TN*
10—**BRIAN LEE** *242, St. Petersburg, FL*

ACW: **ACW champion**—Don Kernodle; **1**—Bobby Fulton; **2**—Nikita Koloff; **3**—Nelson Royal; **4**—Sam Houston; **5**—Colt Steel; **6**—Ivan Koloff; **7**—Ken Shamrock; **8**—Tommy Angel; **9**—Samoan Tai; **10**—Basher.

CWF: **Continental champion**—Wendell Cooley; **1**—Alan Martin; **2**—Dan Davis; **3**—Tom Prichard; **4**—Rick Morton; **5**—Bill Dundee; **6**—Mike Davis; **7**—Todd Morton; **8**—Jackie Fulton; **9**—Don Harris; **10**—Adrian Street.

ICW: **ICW champion**—Tony Atlas; **1**—Joe Savoldi; **2**—Don Muraco; **3**—Ivan Putski; **4**—Vic Steamboat; **5**—Ken Patera; **6**—Mike Sharpe; **7**—Col. DeBeers; **8**—Junkyard Dog; **9**—Kendall Windham; **10**—Tom Brandi.

PNW: **PNW champion**—Carl Styles; **1**—The Grappler; **2**—Buddy Rose; **3**—Steve Doll; **4**—Scott Peterson; **5**—Art Barr; **6**—Nord the Barbarian; **7**—Col. DeBeers; **8**—The American Warrior; **9**—Rex King; **10**—Joey Jackson.

PWF: **PWF champion**—title vacant; **1**—Big Steel Man; **2**—Dustin Rhodes; **3**—Al Perez; **4**—Bam Bam Bigelow; **5**—Steve Keirn; **6**—Mike Graham; **7**—Tyree Pride; **8**—Lou Perez; **9**—Brett Sawyer; **10**—Kendall Windham.

WWC: **WWC champion**—Steve Strong; **1**—Invader I; **2**—Rip Rogers; **3**—Abdullah the Butcher; **4**—White Angel; **5**—TNT; **6**—Kareem Muhammad; **7**—Abughdadien; **8**—Hercules Ayala; **9**—White Angel; **10**—Miguel Perez Jr.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

This column will tell fans how we go about rating nearly 200 wrestlers in 18 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

It's a ratings revolution! Not since the Summer 1983 issue of *Wrestler Annual,* when we expanded from one ratings page to two, added ratings for eight new categories, and inaugurated "Ratings Analysis," have our ratings pages undergone such a major revamping as they have this issue. But we're always looking for new ways to provide you with more information, and boy, have we succeeded!

In this issue, we've eliminated the revolving ratings and made room, in abbreviated form, for five additional federations. Remaining in their usual form are: Top 10, Tag Team, Most Popular, Most Hated, NWA, WWF, AWA, World Class, Stampede, CWA, and Cumulative Ratings.

Now for the changes: Ratings for the Continental Wrestling Federation (previously in large form), as well as Atlantic Coast Wrestling, International Championship Wrestling, Pacific Northwest Wrestling, Professional Wrestling Federation, and the World Wrestling Council, can now be found on the lower right hand corner of the ratings pages in smaller type and in paragraph form, without weights and hometowns. This allows us to have ratings for 16 federations, instead of the previous 11 plus a revolving category.

We're sure you'll agree this is a change for the better.

The Road Warriors

NWA tag team turmoil! When NWA World tag team champions **Steve Williams** and **Mike Rotundo** faced **The Road Warriors** on May 7 in Nashville, they were disqualified and stripped of their belts when their partners **Kevin Sullivan** and **Dan Spivey** attacked referee **Nikita Koloff**. A tournament was ordered, and the first match was a shocker: The Warriors lost by countout to **Michael Hayes** and **Terry Gordy** and were eliminated from the tournament. So, the best team remaining in the tourney appears to be **The Samoan Swat Team**, followed closely by Hayes and Gordy, then **Stan Lane** and **Bobby Eaton**. But this fluke loss wasn't enough to make us drop the Warriors significantly in the tag team ratings. They're still one of the best teams in the world, victimized lately by some bad breaks, and merely drop one spot to number two. The SST, by the way, beat **Ron Simmons** and **Ranger Ross** in their first-round match. Also, Lane and Eaton—**The Midnight Express**—beat **The Masked Raider** and **Butch Reed**. Raider was a last-second substitution for **Bob Orton**, who was injured in a prematch altercation with **Dick Murdoch**.

Injury turmoil! After hours of debate, the *Wrestler Annual* ratings committee decided to drop NWA World champion **Ric Flair** out of the Top 10 ratings because of the injuries he suffered at the hands of **Terry Funk** on May 7 in Nashville. Flair was scheduled to be sidelined for several months and, therefore, unable to defend his title. "If you can't defend, you can't be in the Top 10," Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks said. "However, Flair is still NWA World champion, so he remains on top of the NWA ratings."

Brad Rheingans

There's a similar situation in the AWA. **Brad Rheingans**, one-half of the World tag team champions with **Ken Patera**, has also been sidelined for an indefinite period. Patera has chosen **Scott Norton** as a substitute for title defenses, but the ratings committee decided that Norton and Patera are *not* actually the championship team. Therefore, the AWA World tag team champs are no longer in the tag team ratings.

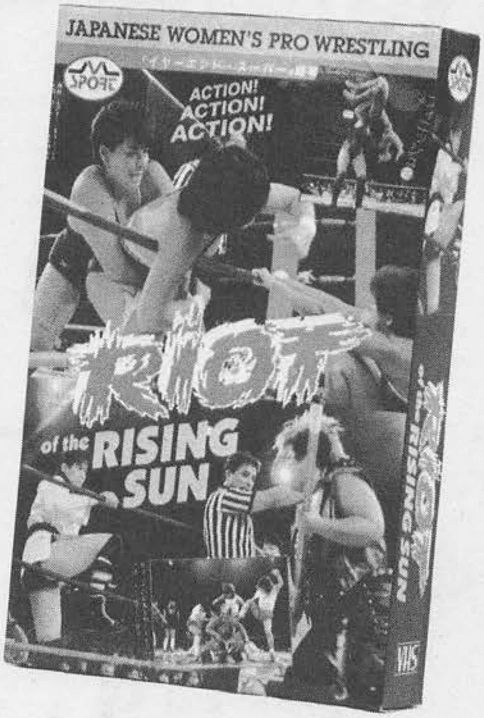
Tracking Trends. No turmoil here. Just a brief look at the ratings movement.

TOP 10: **Rick Steamboat** lost the NWA World title, and **Hulk Hogan** moves back into the top spot. Steamboat drops two notches to number three . . . **Lex Luger** lost and regained the U.S. title since the last issue, and moves up three spots to number two . . . Flair's absence and **Dusty Rhodes'** loss of the PWF title have opened the door for several wrestlers to enter the Top 10: **Jeff Jarrett** moves in at nine and **Larry Cameron** is a first-timer at 10.

TAG TEAMS: **Akeem** and **Big Bossman** have launched an all-out assault on **Demolition's** WWF World tag team championship and enter the ratings at number four. They have not had much success against Demolition so far, however . . . **The Bushwhackers** are once again a force in the WWF; they move in at number six . . . **Shaun** and **Steve Simpson** won the World Class Texas tag belts in late April and are the only WCCW team regularly wrestling; they move in at number eight . . . **Dustin Rhodes** and **Mike Graham** have been impressive as PWF tag champs; they enter the ratings at number nine. □

THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT OF THE YEAR!

You've heard about them . . . you've read about them . . . now you can see them for yourself! Japanese women wrestlers are among the most agile, athletic, acrobatic—and vicious—competitors in the entire mat world. Now, two sensational videotapes bring the dynamic action of Japanese women's wrestling into your own home!



Sample The Excitement!

Jaguar Yokota, The Crush Girls, Devil Masami, The Jumping Bomb Angels, Dump Matsumoto—these are the legends of Japanese women's wrestling. They're all here, and more—including American superstar Wendi Richter. These matches, direct from Japanese television, include the kind of action that, until now, only satellite dish owners or Japanese fans could enjoy. These tapes are certain to become valued collectors' items. They include *complete* matches, not match excerpts!

Slant-Eyed Slaughter

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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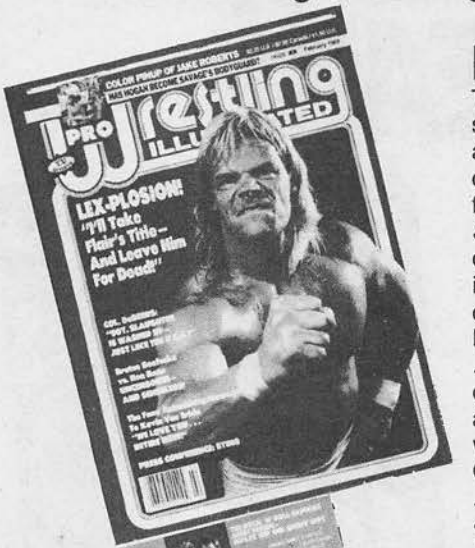

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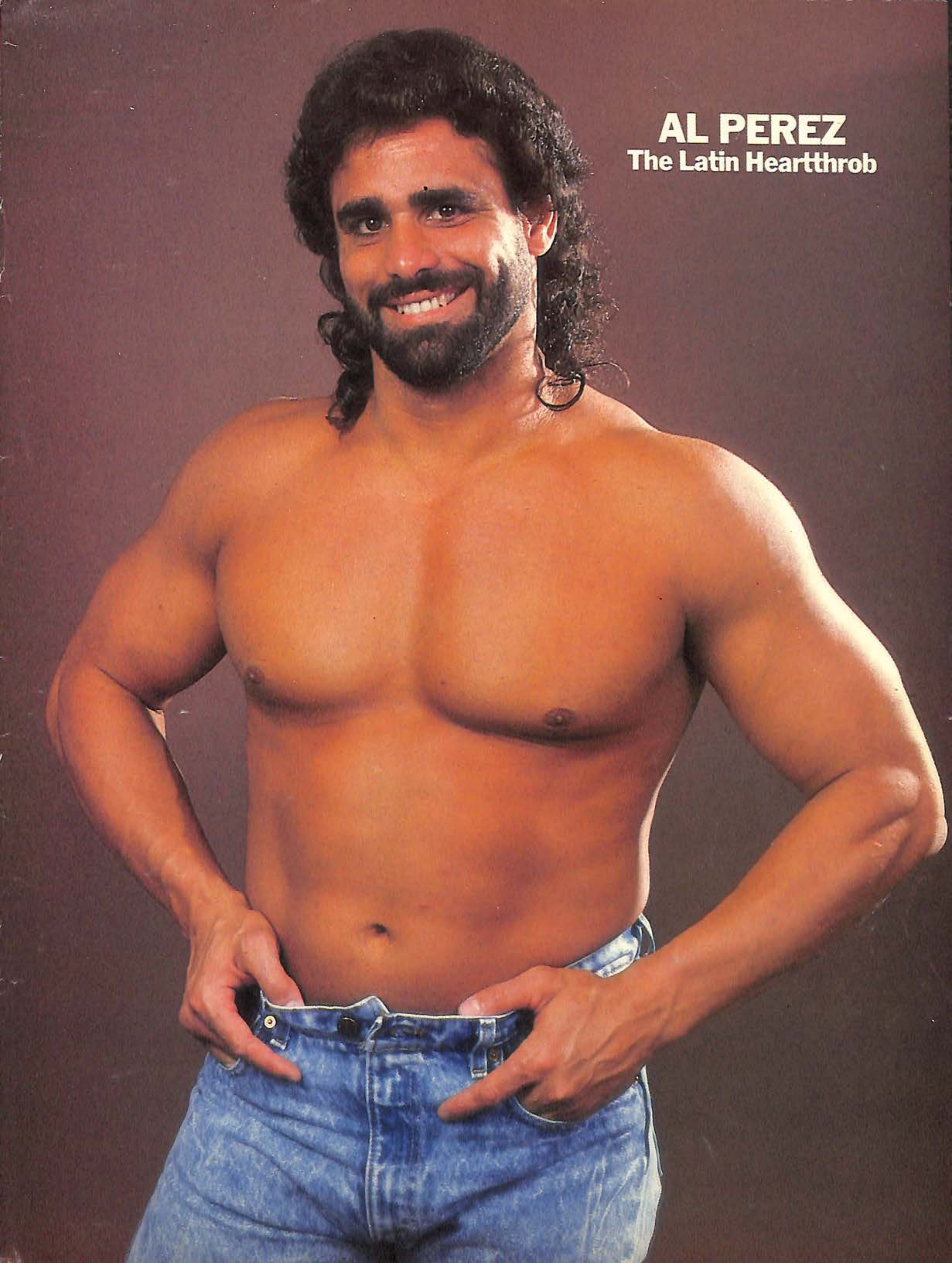
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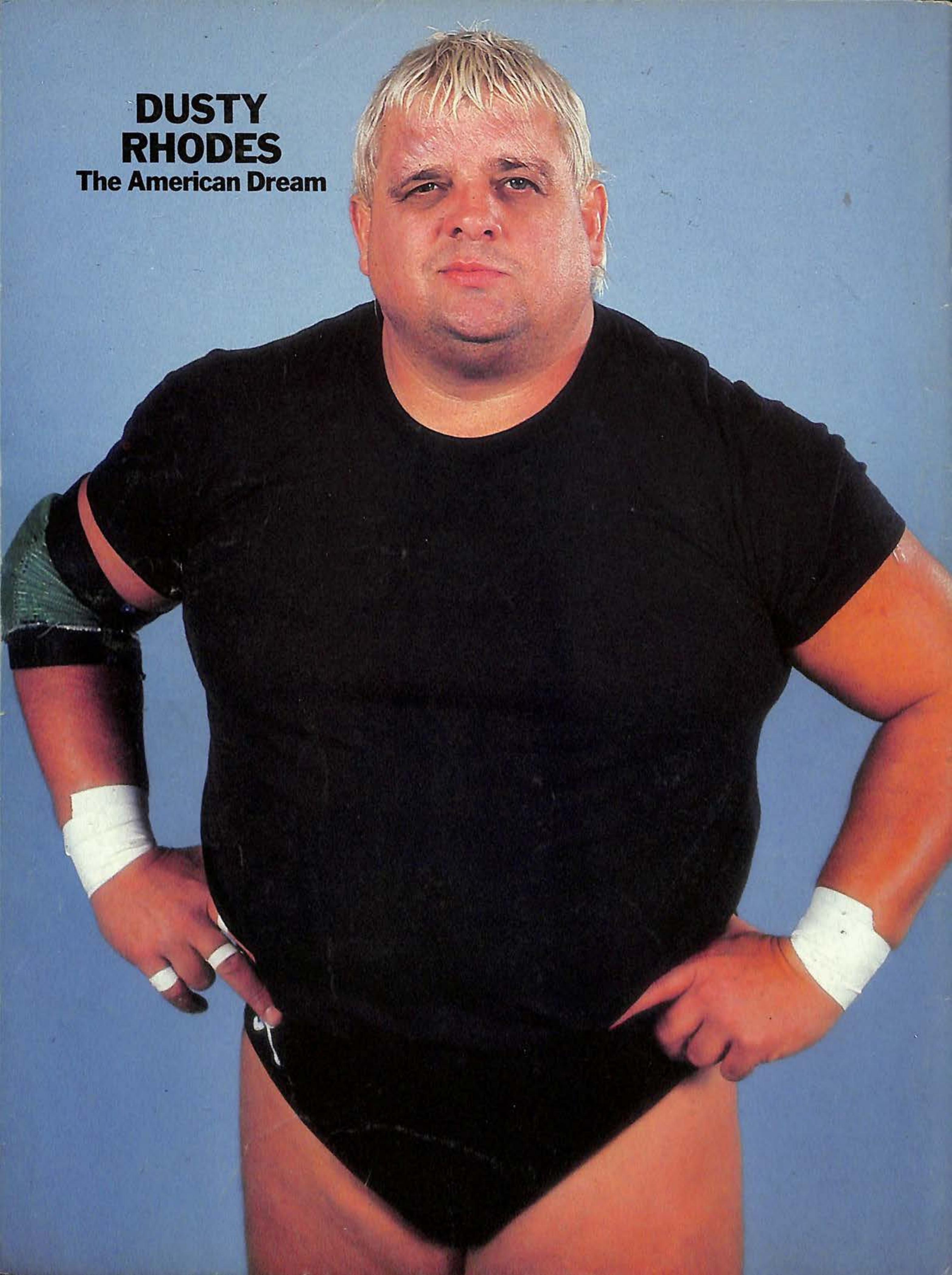
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